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Japan

Onishi Accuses Kodak of 'Vilification,' 'Slander'

OW1608081095 Tokyo KYODO in English
0710 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 KYODO — The public relations battle between Eastman Kodak Co. and Fuji Photo Film Co. heated up Wednesday [16 August] when the Fuji chief accused the U.S. firm of "vilification and slander."

Repeating Fuji's rebuttal of Kodak's accusation that the Japanese company excludes competitors from Japan's commercial film and paper market, president Minoru Onishi portrayed Fuji as the wronged Othello from Shakespeare's tragedy, who is brought down by the lies of Iago.

"I hope vilification and slander are contained only in the world of drama," Onishi told the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan.

Ira Wolf, vice president of Eastman Kodak Asia-Pacific Ltd., who attended Onishi's talk, called the comment "unseemly and beneath the dignity of a company like Fuji and a man like Mr. Onishi."

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) agreed on July 3 to investigate Kodak's claims that Fuji, with the help and forbearance of the Japanese Government, has secured its 70 percent share of the Japanese market through such practices as fixing prices and offering rebates that allow wholesalers to survive only if they shut out competing products.

Onishi rejected Kodak's assertions, calling its 300-page report a "patchwork of scissors and glue" that mistranslates sources and cobbles together convenient bits taken out of context to present a skewed picture of Fuji's actions.

Kodak has failed to work hard enough in Japan, instead pursuing an inconsistent, "zigzag" strategy which has led to such mistakes as pushing its disc camera system when the rest of the industry was expanding the 35 mm film market, Onishi charged.

The four Tokuyakuten special-contract wholesalers that distribute Fuji products to secondary wholesalers do not intentionally exclude Kodak products, as, in recent decades, Kodak has never asked them to sell its products, Onishi said.

Wolf told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Kodak has tried to use such wholesalers, but to no avail.

Onishi called "totally groundless" Kodak's assertion that Fuji uses trade organizations to restrict competition, saying the groups — some of which include Kodak — were formed to address broad industry concerns and do not exist for Fuji's benefit.

He denied that Fuji's rebates to sellers are "progressive," increasing dramatically as certain target volumes are hit. The rebates to Tokuyakuten average 2 percent, and Fuji scrapped rebates to retailers in 1990, even though they did not violate Japan's antimonopoly law, Onishi maintained.

He said price-fixing is impossible in the Japanese film and paper market, where the high yen, discount shops and other factors cause severe competition and most of the top retailers buy from more than one wholesaler.

The USTR has a year to conclude its investigation, said Wolf, a former USTR negotiator, adding that he does not know when the U.S. Government might seek negotiations with Japan on the matter.

In the meantime, the dispute is being played out largely through the revved up publicity campaigns of the two photo giants, each of which has produced thick documents in English and Japanese, and has been quick to refute the other's claims.

Officials Criticize U.S. Release on Auto Accord

OW1608045095 Tokyo KYODO in English
0425 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 KYODO — The U.S. Government's release of details of its auto accord with Japan before it is even signed is an attempt to impress the domestic audience with its leadership, Japanese trade officials said Wednesday [16 August].

With Tuesday's release of a summary of the 30-page accord, the office of the U.S. Trade Representative "wanted to produce the impression that the (June 28) accord was reached under U.S. leadership," said an official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The United States issued its statement, saying Japan is bound by "an unprecedented, enforceable set of commitments," while both sides are working toward signing the agreement next week, said the official of the ministry's Machinery and Information Industries Bureau.

While there are no "numerical targets" in the accord, the U.S. said it will monitor the number of foreign cars sold in Japan, franchises with Japanese dealers to sell foreign cars, foreign-parts purchases by Japanese carmakers in Japan and those by Japanese plants in the U.S.

The deal avoids direct reference to "local content ratio" — the portion of U.S. components in American-made Japanese brand cars.

"The U.S. strategy is to make a domestic appeal that the contents of the agreement, which follow the Japanese side's demands, are beneficial to America," the MITI official said.

"Considering the U.S. domestic situation, I suppose it was inevitable that they would publish early," said an official at MITI's International Trade Policy Bureau.

U.S.-Calculated Auto Figures Concern Industry

OW1608052195 Tokyo KYODO in English 0514 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 KYODO — The Japanese auto industry on Wednesday [16 August] expressed concern that figures presented by the United States in a background document for the Japan-U.S. auto deal will become "numerical targets" to bind Japanese carmakers.

An official at a major Japanese automaker cited the possibility of Washington forcing Japan to implement certain auto targets by using these figures as something like numerical targets.

Results or performance would be substantially influenced by the state of the domestic economy, exchange rate trends and other factors, said the official.

Japan and the U.S. have finalized the text of their auto deal struck in Geneva on June 28. The content of the text was revealed Tuesday in a background paper prepared by the U.S. Trade Representative's office.

In the paper, Washington gives various calculations on U.S. automakers' performance in the Japanese market. For example, it says it "envisions, as a result of the agreement, an increase of direct-franchise agreements between U.S. manufacturers and Japanese dealers will result in approximately 200 new sales outlets by the end of 1996, increasing to a total of approximately 1,000 new sales outlets by the end of 2000."

An official at the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said new frictions may emerge due to different interpretations of the accords in a review session to be held on a regular basis.

'Final Draft' of Auto Accord With U.S. Written

OW1608110395 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 12 Aug 95 Evening Edition p 2

[By Yasuhiko Ota]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 11 Aug — On 11 August, the Japanese and U.S. Governments drew up the final draft of a Japan-U.S. auto accord, which was reached in late June. Regarding the pending issue of how to handle auto parts' procurement by Japanese manufacturers in the United States, an agreement was made to use the phrase "localization" [genchika] of objective criteria, and the United States gave up its demand to use the phrase "local content." However, the draft also clearly states that the ratio of U.S.-made auto parts per car will be calculated on the basis of their procurement. The United States is saying that "there is no change in the spirit of our intention to keep close watch on the increase in local content," (according to U.S. Government authorities).

The process of preparing the final draft faced rough going during the stage of making the final coordination over qualitative objective criteria, which will be used to assess the expansion of parts procurement by Japanese makers. After accepting requests from U.S. parts makers, the U.S. Government called for measurement of "local content." As opposed to this, the Japanese Government insisted that it "cannot accept at all an introduction of objective criteria for measurement of the procurement rate." Even after the ministerial agreement reached in late June, the confrontation between the two governments continues at working-level meetings.

The final draft clearly states that objective criteria will be used to measure the "degree of changes in localization." A U.S. proposal, designed to measure "changes in local contents," was not adopted; Japan said that the U.S. proposal gave an impression of being directly linked to numerical targets. The final draft does not make a concrete reference to the U.S. labeling law or the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) either.

The draft clearly states that a means to measure the localization of parts procurement will take into consideration the amount of U.S.-made parts purchased and the number of vehicles produced by Japanese manufacturers in the United States.

Accepting the Japanese demand, both governments reached a compromise by agreeing, in lieu of dropping such phrases as "local content," to use objective criteria, which uses practical figures to measure expansion of parts procurement.

Now that the draft has been drawn up, both governments will start discussions early next week to set timetables for signing and effectuating the accord. It is likely that both governments will finish signing the accord sometimes next week in Washington. Some officials in the U.S. Government are saying that they should widely publicize the outcome of the agreement at home.

PRC Missile Tests Reportedly Blocked Sealanes

OW1608101995 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 13 Aug 95 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a reliable military source, the Chinese authorities conducted a series of missile firing exercises in late July and thereby blocked part of the sea area off the Seisa Islands [Paracel Islands] located to the south of Taiwan. Details about the exercises, such as the exact site of the exercise, remain uncertain. However, the same source points out: "Since the Japanese sealane is located in the vicinity, Japan should have greater concerns over the fact that an exercise is scheduled to be conducted in the vicinity of the Senkaku Islands. It is quite possible that the Chinese authorities will block the sea area in the vicinity of the Paracel Islands during the next missile firing exercises, set to start on 15 August."

Concerning the Chinese missile exercises, it has been strongly believed so far that either they were conducted independently by the military authorities or Chinese President Jiang Zemin was forced by the military authorities to decide on the blockade. However, the source believes that "the military authorities cannot make their own decision on such issues as sea blockades," and that "the missile exercise is a state-level operation decided on jointly by the CPC and the military."

As if to support this view, "CHING CHI TAO PAO," a Hong Kong paper, has recently published a report on the leading group of the CPC Central Committee for Taiwan Affairs, which is the supreme decisionmaking organ on Taiwan policy, submitting a plan to the enlarged meeting of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau currently being held in Bedaibe, Hebei Province. The plan says: "If Taiwan should take a stance to postpone the unification of the two sides across the Taiwan Strait indefinitely, the military will resort to force in trying to settle the Taiwan issue." With regard to the series of firing exercises, the same source points out: "It should never be forgotten that the United States was not unconcerned about the recent Chinese military exercises. However, the fact is that it has indicated its wait-and-see attitude."

Tokyo Governor Reaffirms Rescue of Cosmo Credit

OW1508105395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0932 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO — The Tokyo Metropolitan Government will use public funds to rescue the effectively bankrupt Cosmo Credit Corp. even if financial irregularities are uncovered at Cosmo, Tokyo Gov. Yukio Aoshima indicated Tuesday [15 August].

Aoshima told a news conference that the government will take whatever measures are required to prevent confusion in financial systems and to protect depositors at Cosmo, Tokyo's largest credit union.

The governor appeared to backtrack from his statement last month that his government may cancel the promised help to Cosmo if obvious irregularities are unveiled.

Aoshima made the statement while explaining a decision by his government to use public funds to bail out the credit union.

Aoshima said Cosmo may not have been entirely free of woes in its operations, but he believes it had no criminal problems, unlike two other credit unions in Tokyo that went under as a result of shady deals.

He also indicated that his government would limit the use of public funds to 20 billion yen for the bailout.

Aoshima earlier halted the requested 30 billion yen from Tokyo's coffers to rescue the two credit unions, Tokyo Kyowa Credit Association and Anzen Credit Bank.

Murayama Explains Apology on WWII Actions

OW1608020295 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0205 GMT 15 Aug 95

[News Conference by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama with domestic reporters at the Prime Minister's Official Residence in Tokyo — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] I would like to say something before I start accepting questions from you. Regarding my letter to British Prime Minister Major, various reports are circulating in England. I would like to explain something about this matter.

I sent a letter of congratulations to the prime minister on his reelection as leader of the Conservative Party. On the other hand, this is the 50th anniversary year marking the end of World War II. I was told that former prisoners of war still have strong feelings about the treatment they received at Japanese military POW camps during the war. Therefore, I restated in the letter my feelings which I had previously expressed. In other words, I stated that I feel deep remorse and apologize for the fact that Japan's actions in the past left many people, including former prisoners of war, with serious scars. I made this feeling clear in my statement today. I would like you to understand the matter in the way I have just explained.

[Dean of press corps] We will start the question-and-answer session now. As dean of the press corps, I will ask the first question. After that, reporters can ask questions freely.

In the statement, Mr. Prime Minister, you clearly stated that Japan made mistakes in national policy and also used the phrases aggression and colonial rule. To us, the statement is saying that Japan has some kind of responsibility for the overall policy of the government at that time. What does the expression you used mean? Also, what do you think is the extent of responsibility of former governments, including the emperor who was the head of state and in a position to make a comprehensive survey of [words indistinct]?

[Murayama] Regarding the emperor's responsibility, he was not accused even when the war ended, internationally, or domestically. I did not mean, in my recent statement, to question the emperor's responsibility for the mistaken national policy at all. The emperor hoped for world peace from the bottom of his heart. He did his best to avert the war. Also, it is a well-known fact that he made the decision to end the war. Regarding the colonial rule and aggression, I thought I ought to clarify my understanding that the colonial rule and acts of aggression caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many counties, and particular those of neighboring Asian countries. At the same time, I thought it was important for us to do some modest soul searching about the facts I have just stated, and express the entire Japanese people's feeling of remorse in this 50th anniversary year.

[Reporter] Individual war victims of foreign countries, one after another, demand that the Japanese Government compensate them for their sufferings. So far, the government has assumed a position of entrusting the juridical organs with handling this issue. However, you clearly expressed in your statement that Japan was responsible for their sufferings. How will you handle those claims in the future? Will you change the government's stand in this regard?

[Murayama] I acknowledge that people of foreign countries, including those who were forced to serve as comfort women, have filed many suits, claiming state compensation. However, our government has honestly dealt with property claims concerning World War II in accordance with the San Francisco Peace Treaty and other related treaties. We believe that Japan and other concerned countries have settled those issues—such as compensation, comfort women, and property claims—from the legal viewpoint. Therefore, we do not plan to pay compensations for individuals. In line with this stand, we will continue to honestly deal with the comfort women issue [sentence as received] and other postwar issues.

[Dean of press corps] Now, each news organization, please go ahead with your questions.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, you clearly said in your statement that Japan had a mistaken national policy. Could you clarify which government made the mistake in national policy, and which policy was the mistaken one?

[Murayama] Thinking back on the old days upon this historic occasion of the 50th anniversary of the war's end, I — as I said earlier — think we should squarely accept the fact that Japan caused tremendous damage and suffering to our Asian neighbors and the people of many other countries. I think it is not appropriate to specify such things as when Japan made the mistake in national policy.

[Dean of press corps] Any more questions?

[Reporter] Why did you change the expression "the act of aggression" to "aggression"?

[Murayama] As I said earlier, this act of Japan's caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly those of Asian nations, during a certain period in the past. To recognize this fact, the government used such expressions as "the act of aggression" and "aggression." We do not think the concept of the wording is different.

[Dean of press corps] We now close the news conference.

[Murayama] Thank you very much.

Nosaka Views LDP's Stand on Murayama Statement

OW1608091695 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN NEWS CONFERENCE REPORT in Japanese 0808 GMT 15 Aug 95

[News conference by Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka with unidentified domestic reporters at the Prime Minister's Official Residence in Tokyo on 15 August from 0522 to 0532 GMT]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] I would like to ask about the prime minister's statement. The cabinet members, including leaders of the ruling parties, approved his statement. Although it is not necessarily a binding statement for each political party, it contains the prime minister's outlook on history, which the Liberal Democratic Party, in particular, can hardly accept. How obligatory do you think it is?

[Nosaka] The present administration is made up of the ruling coalition. In light of the fact that the cabinet members unanimously approved his statement, I would like you to understand that the entire cabinet has agreed to put an end to this issue of Japan's responsibility by approving his view.

Concerning his statement's binding power, I believe that each ruling party will fully respect his view because party leaders are in the cabinet.

Dailies 'Generally' Welcome Murayama War Apology

OW1608024295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0137 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 KYODO — Major Japanese dailies Wednesday [16 August] generally welcomed Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's statement Tuesday offering a straightforward apology for Japan's wartime aggression and atrocities and called for action to follow it up.

"It can be appreciated that the word 'aggression' was used (in describing Japan's role in World War II)," the major economic daily NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said in an editorial headlined "It Took 50 Years To Acknowledge 'Aggression'."

"It was the right decision to express the view (on the war) with a straightforward wording in this 50th anniversary year (of the end of World War II), given that the content of a resolution adopted by the three ruling coalition parties before the Diet in June was too backward looking," the NIHON KEIZAI said.

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN praised the statement as "the compilation" of what the Murayama government has to deal with in terms of problems left over by the war.

"We have taken a case-by-case approach toward the Murayama government and have not taken a generous stand for it, and pointed to what are problems with specific issues left by the war. But when reviewing anew all of what has been done (by the Murayama government), we would like to praise straightforward the Murayama government for grappling with these issues well, though not perfectly," the MAINICHI said.

"This statement is the compilation of them, and it can be understood that the statement, as one to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the war, was brought to the cabinet for approval," it said.

But the MAINICHI and NIHON KEIZAI, together with the ASAHI SHIMBUN, urged specific action to be taken to follow the statement.

"The next task is not to leave this statement as a transient event that took place only under Murayama's premiership, and to send a message on how the Japanese will act on the basis of repentance of the past now that another war called the Cold War is over," the ASAHI said.

The MAINICHI said, "it is an imminent task to follow the prime minister's statement with specific action...only words cannot be allowed."

"It is obvious to everyone that the Murayama government is now in a final stage, but the faith of the prime minister may be doubted if only words are left for adornment to leave other things to other people," the MAINICHI said.

The NIHON KEIZAI said, "what is important is not to leave only words as a temporary solution to get out of a difficult spot."

The SANKEI SHIMBUN criticized Murayama's statement, however, describing it as "private" and one-sided.

"The content of the statement is one-sided because it changes the description of the war in modern Japanese history and (Japanese) colonial rule to 'aggression' from 'aggressive behavior'...and declares them 'mistaken national policy' and makes an apology for them," the SANKEI said.

Murayama seems to have "no pride as prime minister for giving priority to his 'private' status as chief of the Social Democratic Party" over his "official" status as leader of a nation who must honor the nation's pride, the SANKEI said.

LDP Lawmaker on Need for Upper House Reform

OW1608004595 Tokyo KYODO in English 2328 GMT 15 Aug 95

["News Focus" by Takehiko Kajita]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 KYODO — Faced with a serious identity crisis, Japan's House of Councillors needs sweeping reform to reinforce its presence in politics, according to a senior upper house member.

"We must carry out reform of the upper house system," said Masakuni Murakami, the upper house secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the dominant force in the three-party ruling coalition.

"It is necessary to create a situation where you cannot take your eyes off the upper house or you cannot understand politics if you neglect to keep an eye on moves in the upper house," he told KYODO NEWS SERVICE in an interview.

The Japanese parliament, called the Diet, is bicameral in structure with most power residing in the House of Representatives.

Some argue that the upper house is not absolutely necessary since the lower house has final say on selection of the prime minister and ratification of international treaties, as well as the right to deliberate on the budget first.

A vocal legislator eager to elevate the upper chamber's status, the 62-year-old Murakami expressed concern over the 44.52 percent voter turnout in the July 23 elections for the house, a record low for national polls in Japan.

"I'm wondering if the presence of the upper house, compared with the lower house, isn't really felt or that perhaps voters just don't place high hopes on the upper house," he lamented.

"We must now carry out dramatic reform to strengthen the functions of the upper house under the bicameral system," said Murakami, who has been an upper house member since 1980.

The current upper house is the successor to the pre-World War II House of Peers, a body that consisted chiefly of hereditary nobility. With the demise of the aristocracy following the war's end, a system of elections was introduced as a method of legislative recruitment.

While the upper house holds 252 members serving six-year terms, the number of seats in the lower house will be reduced to 500 from 511 when the next general election is contested, possibly later this year or early next year. The term of office in the lower house is four years.

Since its establishment in 1947, the second chamber has always been facing the question of its reason for being, though it is supposed to play a check-and-balance and supplementary role vis-a-vis the lower chamber.

The upper house, however, is frequently portrayed as a "carbon copy" of the lower house.

While not concealing his displeasure about the lower chamber's superiority in functions, Murakami contends that more authority and power of the lower house should be transferred to the upper house.

Citing the longer term of office of its members and since it is never dissolved, Murakami wants to see the upper house be allowed to have the last word on matters that require judgment from a broader and longer-term viewpoint such as education, foreign policy and defense.

The former labor minister also proposes that the upper chamber be authorized to examine and settle the account for the state coffers against the lower chamber's special privilege on the budget.

Another key point on Murakami's reform agenda concerns government councils. The LDP upper house secretary general maintains that the upper house, not the private sector, should be the source of members of such panels on crucial policy matters.

While acknowledging that success in reform hinges on how many members from various walks of life the upper house can marshal, he sees no immediate need to overhaul the system in terms of elections.

At present, half the seats in the second chamber are contested in elections held at fixed three-year intervals. Of that half, or 126 seats, 50 at-large seats are filled via the proportional representation system and the remaining 76 are chosen from 47 prefectural districts.

Under the proportional representation system, councillors from the national constituency are selected by a process in which voters cast their ballots for a party rather than an individual candidate.

Murakami firmly believes the proportional representation portion is the show window of each political party's stance toward resolving a host of policy tasks.

"If you look at the candidates each party fields for the proportional representation slots, you can understand what major electoral issues are. That's the way the proportional representation system has to be," Murakami said.

A forum of upper house members and academics, which is expected to be launched this fall at the initiative of new upper house president Juro Saito, will discuss specific ways to revamp the second chamber, he said.

DA To Request Budget for TMD Research

OW1608061295 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 15 Aug 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Defense Agency [DA] decided on 14 August to demand a total of 450 million yen as the cost for a research study of the "Theater Missile Defense (TMD)" concept in its budgetary request for fiscal year 1996. The request includes: 290 million yen for the FY96 budget and 160 million yen to be included in the FY97 budget as continuing expenditure. As far as the DA is concerned, a simulation system to study how to deal with actual launching of missiles will be developed and tested in the next fiscal year and thereafter, and a conclusion on whether TMD should be introduced or not will be arrived at by summer in 1997.

According to the TMD system, satellites will be used to detect ballistic missiles launched from foreign countries, and then a combination of the surface-to-air "Patriot" missile, the Aegis ship, and a theater high-altitude area defense (THAAD) interceptor will be used to shoot them down. The United States has been engaged in TMD development, which hopefully will be ready for deployment by 2000, and has invited Japan to join in the TMD development program.

Japan indicated its positive stance on joining in the program in a report issued last August by the "Advisory Council on Defense Issues," a private advisory council to the prime minister. DA also takes a positive stand on TMD deployment. A top DA official states: "As this system is capable of striking down attacking objects, it is the most adequate weapons system for our exclusively defense-oriented policy." However, since the total cost for actual operational TMD deployment is estimated to reach from two to four trillion yen, it has become essential that a cautious study be made on whether the system should be introduced or not.

Reshuffle Fails To Create Policy Direction

95P30133B Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 9 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Summary] The reshuffling of the Murayama cabinet should have been a defining event in the future relations of the three coalition parties—the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDJP), and Sakigake—as well in the policy position of the coalition.

However, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama could not execute his leadership as a result of tug-of-war within each coalition party. Murayama also did not make clear the goal of, and reason for, the reshuffle, thereby creating chaos among the coalition parties.

The reshuffle may also have increased public distrust in the nation's politics.

This is the first cabinet reshuffle for the SDPJ, which first became a ruling party under the Hosokawa administration two years ago. For many SDPJ senior leaders who used to believe that cabinet reshuffles were a mere change of cabinet members, the LDP's active tug-of-war in the reshuffling process between Foreign Minister and LDP president Yohei Kono and MITI Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, a leading challenger to Kono in the September LDP presidential election, was shocking.

As a result, Murayama's decision on the timing and scale of the reshuffle was strongly influenced by the intraparty squabbles in the LDP.

But what is more questionable is that Murayama himself lacks a sense of purpose and clear vision in forming a new cabinet. Under the LDP one-party rule in the past, cabinet reshuffles were carried out from time to time. In many of these instances, the LDP announced nominal reasons, saying, for example, that the LDP needs to make the best line-up to carry out important cabinet tasks such as negotiations with the United States on reviewing the security treaty and on the return of Okinawa.

The LDP also carried out reshuffles for more pragmatic reasons such as "introducing fresh minds" or "improving the party and cabinet lineup."

Coalition Divided, Murayama Walks Fine Line

95P30134B Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 9 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Summary] The first cabinet reshuffle by the Murayama coalition government after its formation 13 months ago was intended to give the cabinet a fresh look and to create a political base to revive the sagging economy, thereby regaining public support.

However, contrary to these initial goals, the reshuffle drama took a winding course, during which, according to former Home Affairs Minister Hiromu Nonaka, the players "put their own interests and strategies first." The reshuffle intensified divisions among the three coalition parties—the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ), and Sakigake—and as a result, it drew severe public criticism.

Under these circumstances, the only way Prime Minister Murayama can maintain his government is to prevent deflation by formulating economy-boosting measures. Moreover, he will have to handle the defense budget with caution. Both of these issues are expected to be focal points in the Diet session this fall.

With discord growing among the ruling parties and demands for an early lower house dissolution from the New Frontier Party—the largest opposition party—expected to increase, the new cabinet is likely to face tough going.

Although newly-appointed Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka boasted that "a new and fresh cabinet has been formed," Foreign Minister Kono tried to reap political benefits from the reorganization to aid his bid for reelection as LDP president, while Finance Minister and Sakigake leader Masayoshi Takemura, who had suggested willingness to resign from the cabinet earlier after his party's poor showing in the July upper house election, decided to stay. Undoubtedly something has changed now among the three coalition party heads—Kono, Takemura, and SDPJ chairman Murayama who used to be proud of their unity. There are reports that Murayama has commented that "this is not what we agreed upon" and "it is depressing." It was evident to the people again that he was powerless. This has been reflected in the declining public support rate for Murayama cabinet. All of the latest polls showed the rate sinking to about 30 percent.

In this context, it is obvious that a conflict among LDP intraparty groups, one supporting Kono, and another supporting MITI Minister Hashimoto, has surfaced in the reshuffle drama. This could affect the Murayama government adversely, and, as the presidential election approaches, the conflict could divide the party into two.

Consequently, it will become difficult for Murayama to obtain support from the LDP across-the-board. Murayama will have to watch his step so as not to put his foot on a wrong side of the conflict.

Sakigake has its motives as a member of the new government. After its poor showing in the upper house election last July, the party wants to stress its "differences" from the LDP and the SDPJ, aiming to gain seats in the next lower house election. In the future, Sakigake is expected to make even more obvious moves that will reflect its own policies, which could be a source of pain for Murayama.

LDP Election Battle Heats Up

95P30135B Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 9, 10 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Editorial Report] With the new cabinet of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in place, preparations for the Liberal Democratic Party presidential election in September are moving into high gear. According to the 10 August YOMIURI SHIMBUN, the battle will be between Foreign Minister and incumbent LDP president Yohei Kono, who hopes to retain his post as the president of the LDP, and MITI Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto whose backers are mainly members of the former Obuchi faction of the LDP. The first round in the showdown has already occured in the struggle over the appointment of the LDP's secretary general.

According to the 9 August issue of YOMIURI, the camp led by Hashimoto, who kept his portfolio as MITI Minister in the latest cabinet reshuffle, had fiercely opposed the appointment of Hiroshi Mitsuzuka as LDP secretary general; this appointment was backed by Kono as part of his strategy to retain his current post within the party. However, Kono and his adviser and LDP acting secretary general Shigeru Kasuya succeeded in getting Mitsuzuka appointed to the LDP's No.2 post. Mitsuzuka can consolidate the party—the largest faction within the LDP—to get it fully prepared for the next lower house election. According to the 9 August issue of YOMIURI, Kono was not completely satisfied with the results, but his success in achieving his top priority—winning Mitsuzuka's support, has helped him prepare for his battle for the party's presidency. A member of the Kono camp reportedly stressed that the upcoming LDP election will be a test to see if the former Takeshita faction would be able to control the party.

The 9 August issue of YOMIURI reported that members of both camps will aggressively maneuver to win a majority within the party by recruiting members of the former Watanabe and Komoto factions. Kono asked for the support of former EPA Minister Toshio Komoto and Komoto group members, according to the YOMIURI. He reportedly announced his intention to run in the presidential election while visiting Komoto at his Tokyo home on 7 August. Kono was quoted by YOMIURI as telling Komoto that, as LDP president, he has had success in completing political and party reform, and has placed the LDP "in the mainstream again," according to the 7 August issue of YOMIURI. The 10 August YOMIURI reported that the Kono camp also plans to expand the number of its supporters by cooperating with former LDP factions led by former Prime Minister Miyazawa.

The Obuchi camp on the other hand is rallying around Hashimoto. According to the 10 August YOMIURI, Hashimoto made his intention known to run to a meeting of politicians loyal to LDP Vice President Keizo Obuchi.

"A group Concerned About Japan's Future Course," formed by veteran LDP Diet members, including former LDP secretary general Seiroku Kajiyama—who often criticizes the way Kono runs the party—held a meeting at a Tokyo hotel on 10 August to discuss the election, according to the 10 August YOMIURI. Kajiyama's group agreed that their party needed to reform and the presidential election was an opportunity to begin. The group will officially name its candidate shortly after 20 August, and YOMIURI claimed that the Kajiyama group will support Hashimoto. The Obuchi camp is asking those who were in the faction led by former Deputy Prime Minister Michio Watanabe for cooperation.

North Korea

Hwang Chang-yop Speaks at Solidarity Meeting

SK1508125495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0900 GMT 14 Aug 95

["Opening address" by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Korean Committee for Solidarity With the World People, at a meeting of international solidarity for support to Korea's reunification held in Pyongyang on 14 August—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Delegates: Today we significantly observe the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation achieved by the great leader in the magnificent environment in which all the people of our country are waging a vigorous struggle to add further luster to the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style under the banner of chuche and to reunify the country in the nineties upholding the fatherly leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the state of eternity in the supreme holy land of chuche and more firmly uniting wholeheartedly around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

I am very glad that we grandly hold this meeting of international solidarity for support to Korea's reunification with the participation of delegates of the parties and organizations and noted figures from various countries at a time when the grand national reunification festival is held on the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation.

By authority, in the name of the Korean Committee for Solidarity With the World People and all the Korean people, I warmly welcome once again the delegates who are participating in this meeting. [applause]

At the same time, I take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to you for your invariable support and solidarity for our people's pannational struggle to crush the maneuvers of the splittists at home and abroad and realize the country's independent and peaceful reunification. [applause]

The meeting, which is held amid great interest of the people at home and abroad, will greatly encourage our people in the North and the South and the overseas compatriots who are waging a vigorous struggle to realize the cause of the country's reunification under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

As everyone knows, bringing an end to the tragedy of national division and reunifying the country is the greatest long-cherished desire of our people and the foremost task of the nation which should not be postponed any longer. The division of the country's land and our national division enforced by foreign forces at the same time with the country's liberation challenging our nation's independent development, which is continuing even now when we are in a halfway in the nineties, is an acute problem of our times which should be solved urgently for the sake of the country, the nation, and society and in respect of international justice and world peace and security.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song devoted all his energy and efforts for the country's reunification right from the first day of the country's division. The great leader put forth the three principles of the country's reunification—independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity; the 10-point program for the great unity of the whole nation; and the proposal for the founding of a confederal democratic republic of Koryo, thus comprehensively elucidating the uniquely just fundamental principles and most reasonable and central ways to realize the country's reunification.

Conducting his activities energetically until the last moment of his great life, the fatherly leader alleviated the acute situation on the Korean peninsula, which was dashing toward confrontation, and opened a phase of a turning point for reunification.

However, at the unfortunate incident of the fellow countrymen which occurred unexpectedly last year, the South Korean persons in authority leveled a gun at the painful heart of the nation, instead of displaying good manners by expressing condolences, and followed the road of fascist suppression and betrayal, thus laying a grave obstacle in the way of peace and reunification of the country.

Today, the South Korean rulers drove the entire South Korea into a notorious new public-security dominated political situation, arresting and detaining at random the South Korean people of various strata who call for independence, democracy, and reunification on charges of violation of the National Security Law, committing a fascist suppressive act, suppressing with bayonets the reunification march of the South Korean people who rose up with the anniversary of national liberation approaching.

The South Korean persons in authority arrested Mrs. Pak Yong-kil, Reverend Mun Ik-hwan's widow, when she entered the South Korean area crossing the Military Demarcation Line after visiting Pyongyang to pay homage to the fatherly leader, fulfilling her good manners on the first anniversary of the fatherly leader's passing, on charges of the violation of the National Security Law.

This shows that the dialogue which the South Korean rulers rave about is falsity aimed at national division and their long-term power.

Even today, when the agreed framework has been adopted and its implementation is on the order of the day, the U.S. bellicose circles are reinforcing numerous U.S. Forces in South Korea. Conducting various types of large-scale military exercises, they are posing threat to the northern half of the Republic, straining the situation.

Because of the antireunification maneuvers of the splittist forces at home and abroad, a grave obstacle continues to lie in the way of Korea's reunification. However, the Korean people's strong resolve to achieve the country's reunification without fail cannot be blocked by anything.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is devoting much of his energy to the cause of the country's reunification which the 70 million fellow countrymen long for so eagerly, and elucidating outstanding strategic and tactical policies, he is vigorously leading the entire nation's pannational struggle to realize the country's reunification. [applause]

Today, the South Korean people and all the overseas compatriots boundlessly adore the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the leader of true mass-oriented politics, the great leader [yongsu] of the nation, and the guiding star of reunification, and are launching themselves into a daring struggle to destroy the wall of division and realize the country's reunification. With the united strength of the entire nation, our people will reunify the country without fail.

Also important in realizing the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea today is to bring an end to the direct warring relations [chikchopchogin kyojon kwangye] between the DPRK and the United States. In conformity with the spirit of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework, the United States should respond without delay to our proposal for the establishment of a new peace regime on the Korean peninsula.

Amid the support and encouragement of the peace-loving people of the world, under the banner of the three principles—independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity—and the 10-point program for the great unity of the whole nation elucidated by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and under the outstanding tested leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, we will achieve the country's reunification in the nineties without fail with the united strength of the entire nation, thereby realizing the great leader's behest for reunification without fail.

With a firm conviction that the meeting will be held successfully by the active efforts of the delegates, I declare the meeting open. [applause]

Sixth Pannational Rally Held in Panmunjom

SK1508110295 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1022 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA) — The sixth Pan-National Rally (PNR) was held here today within the framework of the grand national reunification festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation.

Keynote reports and speeches were delivered by representatives of the North, South and overseas sides at the rally.

The programme and rules of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) were examined and perfected and supplemented and a joint resolution was adopted at the rally.

The rally, out of the will of all the fellow countrymen, confirmed that the confederation formula for reunification is the most reasonable and fair way of national reunification to be chosen by the whole nation, and called on the 70 million fellow countrymen to make efforts for reunification.

PNR has been held on August 15 every year since 1990 in which fell the 45th anniversary of the country's liberation.

The PNRs could not be held jointly in appointed places due to the persistent obstructions of the antireunification elements but have been held at Panmunjom and in Seoul and Tokyo separately.

The five PNRs involved colorful political and cultural events reflecting the Korean nation's desire and will for reunification and nearly 200 documents were adopted before and during the rallies.

The respected leader President Kim Il-song, the great sun of the nation and the lodestar of national reunification, received delegates to the first PNR and participants in the third PNR.

More on Pannational Rally

SK1508160295 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1534 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA) — The sixth Pan-National Rally (PNR) for peace and reunification of the country was held here today within the framework of the grand national reunification festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the country.

It discussed the task of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) for the reunification in the 1990s and the issue of adopting the programme and rules of Pomminnyon which were revised at the third meeting of the co-chairmen of Pomminnyon.

It was attended by the co-chairmen of Pomminnyon, delegates of regional headquarters of Pomminnyon and overseas Koreans present at the grand national reunification festival.

An address sent by Kang Hui-nam, chairman of the South side headquarters of Pomminnyon, in congratulation of the rally was introduced at the rally.

Keynote reports and speeches were delivered by representatives of the North, South and overseas sides at the rally.

Chang Chae-chol, vice-chairman of the North side headquarters of Pomminnyon and chairman of the Korean Religionists Council, in his keynote report said:

Whenever the PNR was held, respected President Kim Il-song personally received delegates of Koreans at home and abroad to the rally and brightly indicated all the ways nor the development of the movement of Pomminnyon. In April 1993, he published "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" to provide highly important guidelines to be held fast to by Pomminnyon organisations in the struggle for national reunification and great national unity.

The reporter further said:

An important task of Pomminnyon in the struggle for achieving the reunification through confederacy is to conduct a brisk movement for instilling the idea of national independence in the minds of the Koreans at home and abroad, stage a nationwide movement to remove the danger of war and ensure peace on the Korean peninsula and intensify the struggle to achieve the unity of the whole nation and get the "National Security Law", an anti-reunification evil law, scrapped.

Especially, it must strongly urge the United States and the South Korean authorities to cancel their anachronistic anti-DPRK hostile policies such as "military strategy" to contain the DPRK with arms and the "strategy of peaceful transition" intended to induce it into "reforms" and "opening" and to withdraw the U.S. troops from South Korea and take the road of disarmament.

The day will come in the 1990s when the pan-national unified state is established because all the fellow countrymen ardently aspire after reunification, there are great programmes of national reunification and the great General Kim Chong-il who is the same as respected President Kim Il-song stands at the head.

Upon authorization, vice-chairman of the European regional headquarters of Pomminnyon Yi Hui-se read the keynote report sent by the South side headquarters to the PNR.

The report said that either "unification of systems" or "unification through absorption" will only lead to national confrontation, disputes and armed conflicts. It was confirmed that for independence and peaceful reunification, reunification through confederacy must be realized by establishing a national state on the basis of recognising and respecting each other's system and idea, the report said, adding: We will launch a powerful struggle for propagandizing this proposal and reaching a nationwide agreement on it.

We will conduct a nationwide struggle to denounce and frustrate the policy of dependence upon outside forces on the part of a handful of splittist forces and their flunkeyist and treacherous acts and moves of national division.

We will tirelessly fight to remove legal, institutional and physical devices, decisive factors hindering the reunification movement, and courageously struggle against the Kim Yong-sam "regime," the report stressed.

A keynote report was delivered by Yang Yong-tong, chairman of the General Association of Korean Citizens in China.

He said that the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon has consolidated its organization through the tripartite solidarity with independent, pro-reunification forces in the North, and the South and overseas and great national unity and steadily conducted activities for propagandizing the proposal for reunification through confederacy, the most correct and reasonable way for national reunification, and thus registered successes in the work of expanding people' support to it.

To achieve the reunification by means of confederacy, Pomminnyon must extensively conduct the movement to instil the idea of national independence in the minds of the seventy million fellow countrymen at home and abroad. And it must push ahead with the nationwide movement for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea and the disarmament, putting greater pressure upon the United States and the South Korean authorities.

Speeches were made at the meeting.

Choe Ki-hwan, chairman of the European regional headquarters of Pomminnyon, said all organizations of the North and overseas under Pomminnyon should resolutely check and frustrate the separatists' move to crack down upon and disintegrate from within its South side headquarters born through the arduous struggle and the ill- intentioned moves of the forces laying hurdles in Pomminnyon's activities with reformist slogans. "Pomminnyon is a crystal of reunification movement forces at home and abroad that love the fatherland as well as the banner of reunification movement," he said, stressing, [word indistinct] will fulfil my duty in the 90s' general onward march for realizing reunification through confederacy firmly united around Pomminnyon."

In a speech Kim Chi-yong from the Japanese regional headquarters of Pomminnyon said:

"Now when the day of reunification id drawing near, what we should do is to make the compatriots fully accept the confederation formula confirmed as the nation's common way of reunification of the great national conference, through a three-way solidarity movement of the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas.

The rally reviewed in and completed the programmes and rules of Pomminnyon, framed at the tripartite working-level talks in Berlin in November 1990 and amended and supplemented several times at meetings of its co-chairmen and tripartite negotiations and adopted the programme and rules of the 6th Pan-National Rally.

The programmes clearly define the general goal of the movement of Pomminnyon based on the three principles of national reunification as to build up a pan-national reunified state capable of representing the wish and desire of all members of the nation, a confederal state in which two systems and two governments exist in the North and the South and give down-to-earth tasks to that end.

The rules define those eligible for admission to Pomminnyon as patriotic political parties and organizations and figures of all walks of life in the North, South and overseas who support the three principles of national reunification and approve its programmes and rules, and giving emphasis to adhering to the principle of democracy and the tripartite agreement of the North, South and overseas in activities and operation of its organization.

A joint resolution was also adopted at the rally.

The resolution notes that Pomminnyon will launch in a vigorous manner the movement of popularizing the idea of national independence to prepare the entire fellow countrymen to be a creditable driving force for national reunification in the 90s and provide a favourable precondition for 90s' reunification through confederacy by conducting dynamically a nationwide peace movement in the North, South and overseas.

The resolution says the organization will further expand and invigorate at home and abroad the movement for abolishing the "National Security Law", the worst law opposed to reunification, democracy and ethics, and steadily increase the ranks of supporters for Pomminnyon in all regions of the North, South and overseas, so as to enhance the movement of Pomminnyon.

With the adoption of a fine joint resolution through in-depth discussions of the North, South and overseas, Pomminnyon could further strengthen solidarity between three sides and conduct more actively the reunification movement in keeping with the new demand of reunification movement — the method for reunification through confederacy has been confirmed as a reunification formula common to the nation.

National Conference on Reunification Held

SK1508112195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1047 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA) — A historical great national conference for confirming the nation's common way of reunification was held at the Tongil House in the portion of the North side at Panmunjom today on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation.

The conference, the first of its kind in nearly half a century, was participated in by representatives of political parties and organizations in the North, the South and overseas and peoples of various social strata. The nationwide discussion for reunification marked a historical event of epoch-making significance in putting the nation's movement for reunification on a higher stage.

The participants put on the agenda "On Confirming the Nation's Common Way of Reunification", out of all the fellow countrymen's desire for the country's reunification, sincerely discussed the issue and unanimously confirmed that reunification by confederacy is the way common to the nation.

The conference was attended by secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee Kim Yong-sun, chairwoman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee Yu Mi-yong and leading officials of social organizations and religious organizations. Also present were member of the Association of Supporters for the Family Movement for Realizing Democracy in South Korea Cho Yong-sam, Vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) So Man-sul, delegates of the regional headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) and the National Alliance of Youths and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) and Koreans overseas.

Francisco da Costa Gomes, ex-president of Portugal and honorary chairman of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea (Cilreco), and Guy Dupre, secretary general of Cilreco, and other foreign guests of honor were also on hand.

Keynote reports and speeches on the agenda item were made at the conference.

The keynote reports were delivered by Paek In-chun, chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the General Federation of Unions of Literature and Art of Korea and vice-chairman of the National Preparatory Committee of the Grand National Reunification Festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation, on behalf of the North side, and by Sonu Hak-won, advisor to the One Korea Movement and co-chairman of the American regional headquarters of the National Preparatory Committee of the festival, on behalf of the side of overseas Koreans.

The reporters were unanimous in stressing that the confederation formula is the only way of reunification and called on all the compatriots in the North, the South and overseas to make efforts to establish a pan-national reunified state through confederation.

In his speech on behalf of the side [as received] of overseas Koreans Chu Yong-il, vice-chairman of the International Korean Association (Unity), spoke of important things to be solved without fail for national reunification by confederacy.

"Above all, the separatists' intention for 'institutional unification' should be thoroughly smashed," he said.

He further said: "If the country is to be reunified through confederation, it is necessary to have South Korea's 'National Security Law' abolished. With it left alone, is it impossible to achieve national unity and reunification through confederation.

"It is not easy to have the 'institutional unification doctrine' withdrawn and the 'National Security Law' abolished. But I am convinced that if the whole nation launches a joint struggle with concerted efforts, it will be possible."

In his speech on behalf of the North side, Kim Yong-nam, vice-chairman of the C.C., the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, voiced full support to the proposal for defining the confederation formula for reunification based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments as the nation's common way of reunification and laid bare the unreasonableness of the separatists' assertion impairing the confederation formula.

He said this assertion is an offspring of the separatists who are turning down all the proposals of the North side, in a bid to justify their "institutional unification doctrine" and misleading public opinion favoring the confederation formula.

"We must keep heightened vigilance against their moves to damage the fair and above-board confederation formula and its viability and reject their assertion in time," he added.

Adopted at the conference was an "appeal to the 70 million fellow countrymen" representing the unanimous will of Koreans in the North, the South and overseas to make the '90s a decade of national reunification at any cost.

The appeal called on the compatriots in the North, the South and overseas to rise up in the struggle to accomplish the historical cause of national reunification in the '90s without fail in accordance with the confederation formula.

Appeal to Koreans Adopted

*SK1508111395 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1033 GMT 15 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA) — An appeal to the 70 million fellow countrymen was adopted at the great national conference of political parties and organizations of Koreans in the North, the South and overseas which was adopted here today.

Noting that the great national conference (GNC), representing the fellow countrymen's unanimous desire for reunification, put "on confirming the nation's common way of reunification" on the agenda and had sincere discussions on it, the appeal says:

GNC unanimously confirmed that the confederation formula is the reunification format common to our nation.

Since there exist different ideologies and systems in the North and the South, the shortcut to peace and reunification of our nation is to reunify the country through confederation with neither side conquering the other or being conquered.

If our nation shares the same goal for the country's reunification, irrespective of difference in ideology and system, it can establish a pan-national reunified state with the two different systems left intact.

All the compatriots at home and abroad who do not want confrontation and war but truly hope for peace and reunification of the country must choose the confederation formula favorable to both the North and the South and beneficial to the whole nation.

The reunification formula is the choice of the nation, the way of reunification.

All the compatriots in the North, the South and overseas, let us make efforts for the establishment of a pan-national reunified state through confederation

GNC categorically rejected the "institutional unification doctrine" contrary to the confederation formula.

The "institutional unification doctrine" is an anti-national concept for division and war which may cause the permanent division of the nation or a fratricidal war.

Let us smash the anti-reunification forces' "institutional unification doctrine" with concerted efforts of the whole nation.

GNC unanimously considered that defusing tension and ensuring a durable peace in the Korean peninsula is vital to the reunification by confederacy.

All the compatriots at home and abroad, let us lift up voices demanding the replacement of the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement and launch a vigorous nationwide struggle for putting the North-South nonaggression declaration into effect.

Let us resolutely check the reckless confrontation moves of the bellicose forces trying to make profit in increasing tension and perpetrating belligerent moves.

GNC unanimously held that the elimination of the legal and institutional barriers against national reconciliation and unity are the key to the reunification by confederacy.

With the "National Security Law" defining the fellow countrymen in the North as the "enemy" and criminalizing the movement for national reunification left intact in South Korea, it is impossible for the compatriots to have meetings and dialogues with each other.

All the compatriots at home and abroad, let us strive harder to have the "National Security Law," an anti-national, anti- reunification law, abolished

Great national unity is the foundation of the country's reunification.

GNC set an example of great national unity.

The great unity of our nation just means unity of the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas.

If all the compatriots unite closely with the patriotic purpose for reunification, irrespective of ideology, idea, ism and opinion, it will lead to unity we hope for.

All the compatriots, let us unite closely in line with the programme of the great unity of the whole nation.

The historical GNC has put the reunification movement of Koreans in the North, the South and overseas on the orbit of reunification by confederacy.

Let us surely accomplish the historical cause of reunification in the '90s in accordance with the confederation formula.

Let us demonstrate to the whole world the dignified appearance of our nation.

Speakers Give Keynote Reports

SK1508122495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1131 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA) — Keynote reports were made at the great national conference of political parties and organisations in the North, the South and overseas to confirm the way of reunification common to the nation which was held in Panmunjom today.

Paek In-chun, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Art and vice-chairman of the National Preparatory Committee of the grand national reunification festival celebrating 50th anniversary of the country's liberation, delivered a report on bahalf of the North side.

He recalled that two diametrically different stands and views toward the question of national reunification and the way of national reunification have long existed in Korea.

He quoted the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"Our party holds that the country should be reunified by founding a confederal republic through the establishment of a unified national government on condition that the North and the South recognise and tolerate each other's ideas and social systems, a government in which the two sides are represented on an equal footing and under which they exercise regional autonomy respectively with equal rights and duties."

The reporter further said:

The three principles of national reunification the keynote of which is independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, the ten-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country and the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, which were put forward by Comrade Kim Il-song, are three reunification programmes which comprehensively indicate the principles and ways of solving the reunification question in our country. These are the most valuable crystals of the historical exploits performed by him for the reunification of the country.

Different views related to the way of national reunification are being raised in our surroundings. But, the trend of debate on reunification is flowing toward selecting the proposal for reunification through confederacy and this trend is becoming all the more predominant.

In actuality, major reunification movement organisations in the North, the South and overseas have already set it as their official programme to realise the three principles of national reunification and the proposal for reunification through confederacy. Under this situation, I courteously propose to the great national conference to confirm the proposal for reunification through confederacy as the way of reunification common to the nation.

This proposal of ours proceeded from the absolute support of the whole nation to the three principles of national reunification and from the confidence in the feasibility and reasonableness of the proposal for reunification through confederacy based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments.

Reflected in this proposal is the stark realities of the North and the South in which two different systems have existed for half a century. So, it indicates a reasonable way of preventing a permanent division of the country and solving the reunification question of the country in the fairest way at the earliest possible date under these actual conditions.

It is very just to confirm as the way of reunification common to the nation the proposal for reunification through confederacy the realisation of which is firmly ensured and which is the most realistic and reasonable one.

The reporter laid a special emphasis on the essential differences between the proposal for reunification through confederacy and the socalled "Proposal for Alliance of the North and the South" on the lips of the present South Korean authorities and on the incomparable superiority of the proposal for reunification through confederacy.

The proposal for reunification through confederacy is a formula of political solution based on the general will of the nation, while the "Proposal for Alliance of the North and the South" is nothing but a formula of administrative business based on self-opinions of the South Korean authorities against the general will of the nation.

The proposal for reunification through confederacy illumines the shortest cut to national reunification, while the "Proposal for Alliance of the North and the South" substantially seeks to freeze the division of the nation through an agreement between the North and the South.

Our nation aspiring after peace has no other way but to establish a unified national state while leaving the two systems and two governments as they are. This is precisely the way of reunification through confederacy. The proposal for reunification through confederacy fully contains the principle of neither side conquering the other or being conquered and firmly ensures co-existence and co-prosperity of the North and the South in a unified confederal state.

The most decisive guarantee for reunifying the country by means of confederacy is to build up the driving force of national reunification by implementing "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country".

In conclusion, the reporter stressed:

We must achieve the reunification through confederacy in the 1990s and thus put an end to the tragedy of national division which has been forced through generations and gratify the cherished desire of the seventy million fellow countrymen.

This is the behest of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who devoted all his life to the liberation of the country and national reunification and an unshakable will of respected General Kim Chong-il who is paving the way for reunification in the van, true to this behest.

If the three principles of national reunification are applied and the reunification through confederacy is achieved, distrust and confrontation between the North and the South will disappear and the danger of war will be removed in our country. And our nation will enjoy a happy life with nothing to envy in a prosperous and developing reunified country, independent and peaceful.

Son Hak-won, advisor to the One Korea Movement and co-chairman of the American regional headquarters of the National Preparatory Committee of the grand national reunification festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the country, made a keynote report on behalf of the overseas side.

Saying that various kinds of reunification proposals have been raised within the nation and the major things of them are the proposal for reunification through confederacy and the "Proposal for Unification of Systems", the reporter explained his views on the reunification proposals of the authorities of the North and the South in light of impartiality.

The reporter said:

The "Proposal for Unification of Systems" means to do away with the idea and system of the other side and to reunify the country by forcing its idea and system upon the other. So, an iota of impartiality cannot be seen in this proposal.

We cannot tolerate the anti-national "doctrine of unification of systems" the precondition of which is confrontation between the fellow countrymen.

The proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo advanced by the North is a reasonable and fair one which represents the common interests of the nation and those of the North and the South. It can be accepted by anyone who is truly interested in the reunification, irrespective of his or her political view, religious belief and class affiliation.

In the "Proposal for Unification Of systems", the South Korean authorities intend to extend their idea and system even to the North. But, the proposal for reunification through confederacy reflects the realistic condition of our country in which different ideas and systems exist.

Accordingly, if the North and the South take the stand of tolerating and respecting the other side's idea and system in keeping with the trend of the times, the reunification through confederacy can be achieved without fail.

We will encourage all the reunification movement organisations and Korean residents in foreign countries to turn out as one in the struggle to achieve the reunification through confederacy and thus make due contributions to the historical cause of reunification in the 1990s.

Joint Art Show Held

SK1508154995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA) — An art show of the North, the South and overseas for reunification took place here today.

It was the first joint show of the nation, which pools the will and talent of nongovernmental organisations and personages in the North, the South and overseas.

On display were fine art pieces on national reunification and on the nation from the North, the South and overseas.

Organisations and personages in South Korea sent meaningful art pieces to the show to add shine to it despite the authorities' desperate efforts to obstruct it.

The art show marked an occasion in inspiring the Korean people to national unity and reunification and giving impetus to the reunification movement of the nation.

Reunification Concert Held

SK1508153195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA) — A reunification concert of the Korean artistes in the North, the South and overseas was held at Panmunjom on August 15, one of the joint ceremonies of the grand national reunification festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of national liberation.

Present at the concert were delegates of Koreans in the North, the South and overseas and guests of honor to the festival.

It was held under an agreement of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Art of Korea, the South Korean General Federation of National Artistes and the Union of Korean Men of Culture and Artistes in Japan.

Put on the stage was a colorful program of music and dances prepared by the artistes in the North and overseas with utmost care. South Korean artistes could not participate in the concert owing to the obstructions by the splittist forces. But they sent to the concert a series of musical works carrying their ardent desire for national reconciliation and unity and reunification.

Put on the stage at the concert which raised its curtain with a chorus "Song of Grand National Reunification Festival" by compatriots in the North, the South and overseas were vocal solos, choruses, dances, storytellings and other colorful numbers, which showed the desire for national reunification.

The performers sang a vocal solo "We Yearn for his Bright Smile" "Good Health of the Dear Leader Is Our Happiness" and other songs with the earnest yearning and reverence for President Kim Il-song, who made unremitting efforts for the prosperity of the country and national reunification all his life, and with the will to achieve national reunification without fail in the 90 under the guidance of the great General Kim Chong-il, true to the behests of the president on reunification.

They sang such songs as "Let Us Go Along This Road Together," and "O, Reunification" and recited poems with reunification theme in chorus so as to demonstrate the firm will of all the Koreans in the North, the South and abroad to achieve great national unity by giving full play to patriotism, transcending differences in political viewpoint, religious belief, idea, social system and ideal and to bring about a new morning of reunification.

Reunification Festival Closes

SK1508153495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA) — The historic grand national reunification festival for celebrating the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation closed.

The closing ceremony took place on the ground in front of the Panmun House in the northern portion of Panmunjom this evening.

An "Appeal to the 70 Million Fellow Countrymen" made up by the North, South and overseas Koreans participating in the festival was adopted as a formal appeal of the festival at the ceremony.

When the festival was declared closed, the flag of the festival was pulled down from the flagpole.

The North, South and overseas delegates to the festival renewed their will to achieve the reunification cause in the 90s, recalling the significant festival which marked an important occasion in the historic 50-year-long march for reunification.

They promised to meet again at the reunification square of a confederal republic on the historic day of reunification, desire of the nation, by building up the flame for reunification kindled in the festival and breaking down the wall of division.

Pomchonghangnyon Central Committee Meeting Held

SK1508114795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1105 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA) — The 1st meeting of the Central Committee of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) was held today at Tongil House in the North side's portion of Panmunjom.

Pomchonghangnyon was inaugurated in 1992.

Taking part in the meeting were chairmen of North and overseas sides and the South side's delegates of Pomchonghangnyon and members of the Pomchonghangnyon Central Committee in the North, South and overseas.

The participants observed a moment's silence in memory of the martyrs who laid down their lives in the glorious struggle for the liberation, reunification and prosperity of the country.

The meeting focused on agenda items "1. On defining reunification formula by Pomchonghangnyon," "2. On impending tasks of Pomchonghangnyon" and "3. Review of work of Pomchonghangnyon and its follow-up tasks."

A report on the first agenda item was delivered by Yi Hye-chong, delegate of "Hanchongnyon" under the South side headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon.

She said:

"Reunification formula maintained by Pomchonghangnyon is the proposal for reunification through confederacy," stated the reporter. "This is because this proposal is the one envisaging the realization of national reunification by building a confederal state through the nation's great unity transcending differences of two social systems existing in our nation and in ideology, political view and religious belief as well as the one based on present-day situation."

"Now we are faced with the task to wage a vigorous struggle to build a new country, a reunified confederal state unprecedented in history," he said, appealing to youth and students in the South. North and overseas to vigorously rush along the road of building a reunified confederal state by pooling strength and efforts."

A report on the second agenda item was delivered by Pak Ku-ho, co-chairman of the overseas headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon.

"Pomchonghangnyon should further consolidate the current trend of DPRK-U.S. reconciliation with the announcement of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement as an occasion and push ahead in full scale with the work to amplify the nation's independent stand," he said.

"Youth and students in the North, South and overseas should launch the pivotal activities for declaring null and void the 'National Security Law' which defines the North as 'enemy' and bans even the contacts with members of the nation, so as to splendidly adorn the 50th anniversary of national division with a turning point for national reunification," he added.

A report on the third agenda item was made by Kim Yong-to, director of the secretariat of the North side headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon.

"The movement of youth and students for national reunification progresses dynamically along the right path, organized on a nationwide scale under the banner of Pomchonghangnyon."

Touching on the tasks facing Pomchonghangnyon, he said, "Youth and students in the North, South and overseas should accept Pomchonghangnyon's reunification formula based on confederation which was agreed upon at the 1st meeting of co-chairmen in 1993 and reaffirmed at the current Central Committee meeting and, on the basis of it, actively fight to reach a nationwide agreement on this formula, and take the lead in building the driving force of reunification by achieving the great unity of the whole nation," he said, adding that "Our youth and students should be the vanguard in the struggle for national reunification, being conscious of the fact that their destiny is in the destiny of the nation."

A joint agreement was adopted at the meeting.

The agreement reaffirmed the confederation based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments, which is the unique reunification formula of the Korean nation, and noted that all struggles of Pomchonghangnyon and pro-reunification patriotic forces will, afterwards, be elevated onto a higher stage as the struggle to realize reunification through confederacy in the 90s.

The agreement pointed out that they will further develop the movement for great national unity and deter all sorts of obstructions to national reunification at home and abroad, thereby building up, on any account, the guarantee for realising the 90s' reunification by tearing down the barrier of division.

It said that they will work hard so that a peace agreement can be concluded with the recently-held DPRK-U.S. talks developing into talks for peace agreement and that conditions favourable can be created for durable peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula. "In this process, we will thoroughly smash the U.S. deceptive moves to avoid its responsibility and will frustrate the moves of the anti-national and anti-reunification group that give impetus to the policy of national division."

Pomchonghangnyon Holds Forum in Panmunjom

SK1508115595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1109 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA) — The National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) held a forum for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country here today within the framework of the grand national reunification festival to mark the 50th liberation day.

Present at the forum were north, South and overseas delegates of Pomchonghangnyon and youth and students.

Delegates from the North, the South and overseas and other young people made written or impromptu speeches at the forum.

The speakers expressed support to the confederacy formula based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments, which had been confirmed as Pomchonghangnyon's way of reunification at the first session of the Central Committee of Pomchonghangnyon. They called for dedicating youthful lives to the efforts to smash the reckless moves for war and permanent division of the nation on the part of foreign forces and traitors and to build a new history of a confederal state.

The participants fully demonstrated their resolution to display their honor as the first generation of reunification, singing the songs "March of Democratic Youth," "We Are Heirs to Revolution," "March of Chondaehyop," "March of Hanchongnyon" and "Korea Is One."

Pomchonghangnyon Photo, Fine Art Show Held

SK1508152995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1504 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA) — A photo and fine art show of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon), the first of its kind in history of national division, took place today at Tongil House in Panmunjom.

On display at the show were Korean paintings, oil paintings, posters, calligraphies and photographs from the North, South and overseas which depict the struggle of youth and students for national reunification and which are based on national theme.

The exhibits clearly show the misfortunes and pains caused by national division, the fervent love of Korean youth and students for the country and people, their hatred or the enemies of reunification, their faith in and will of reunification by confederacy formula.

Present at the show were Pomchonghangnyon delegates from the North, the South and overseas.

Speeches were made at the show.

Kang Song-san, Others at Liberation Day Rally

SK1508100895 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
2330 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This is the industrial city of Hamhung. A central report meeting to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the fatherland's liberation and a baronial mass rally of the working people in Hamhung are going to be grandly held here at the Hamhung Square. [passage omitted]

Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and premier of the Administration Council; Comrades Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, and Kim Yong-chu, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice presidents; Vice President Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Korea Social Democratic Party Central Committee; other party and government cadres; vice marshals of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; responsible secretaries of provincial party committees; chairmen and directors of Administration Council committees; functionaries of central organizations; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; KPA generals and officers; responsible functionaries of party and government organizations and administrative and economic organizations in South Hamgyong Province and Hamhung; heroes and meritorious people; and those who have had the honor of being received [as heard] are appearing on the rostrum. [passage omitted]

Government Holds Liberation Day Banquet

SK1608002695 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2205 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The DPRK Government held a banquet to mark the 50th anniversary of the national liberation at Sinhunggwan in Hamhung city last night. Those who attended at the banquet were Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers' Party Korea [WPK] Central Committee and premier of the State Administration; Comrades Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, Kim Yong-chu, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and DPRK vice presidents; party and government cadres, including DPRK Vice President Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korea Socialist Democratic Party; vice marshals of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; responsible secretaries of each provincial party; chairmen and ministries of the State Administration; responsible functionaries of the central organs and working bodies; anti-Japanese fighters; KPA generals; functionaries of the party, government organizations, administrative and economic organizations, and working bodies in South Hamgyong Province and in Hamhung city; heroes of the Republic and heroes of labor, meritorious people, [word indistinct], scientists, and technicians; and other relevant functionaries. The members of the educational delegation of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan who are staying in the socialist fatherland were also present there. Yuriy Fadeyev, Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DPRK, and other embassy staff members were invited. The national anthem was performed at the banquet. Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president, delivered a speech at the banquet.

Yi Chong-ok Speaks at Banquet

SK1608013895 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2207 GMT 15 Aug 95

["Gist" of speech by Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president, at a banquet held by the DPRK Government in Hamhung on 15 August — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and vice president, made the following remarks during the banquet.

Comrades, today we significantly greet the 50th anniversary of the national liberation amid the great excitement, cherishing in our hearts a high sense of the national dignity and the pride of gaining the proud achievements in the struggle for the prosperity and growth of the chuche socialist fatherland under the wise leadership of the party and the leader [suryong].

The victory in our people's anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and the national liberation was the great historical event that brought about the establishment of the national sovereignty and the chuche Korea.

The cause of our national history that gained the national liberation and opened a wide road for the national rebirth with the chuche forces of our revolution under the banner of chuche idea is the great immortal achievements gained by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song before the fatherland and the nation.

The cause of founding the socialist Korea pioneered by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is brilliantly inherited by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il. As a result, today our fatherland is opening the golden age of the prosperity and growth.

All people are vigorously carrying out the all-out march movement for the prosperity and growth of the socialist fatherland, overflowing with conviction and optimism based on the most consolidated and stabilized political foundation. The single-hearted unity of the whole party, the entire Army, and all people centering on the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is being firmly consolidated. Also, the whole society has been turned into a great harmonious family in which all people help and lead with one another.

By uniting around the great Comrade Kim Chong-il over and over again and by more vigorously embarking upon the 10 million-ri road of the revolution while upholding the respected and beloved general's leadership with a single-hearted mind of loyalty and dutifulness, we should achieve the boundless prosperity of the socialist fatherland and consummate the chuche revolutionary cause to the end.

The victory and glory will be always laid before our people, who are fighting for the just cause by uniting around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Also, the chuche socialist fatherland will become prosperous and develop forever.

On this significant place in which we greet the 50th anniversary of the national liberation, I propose a toast to the immortality of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, founder of the socialist fatherland, eternal leader of our party and people, and sun of chuche; the longevity and good health of Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, supreme commander of the KPA, and the great leader of our party and people; the boundless prosperity of the chuche socialist fatherland; the new struggling success and good health of all people and officers and men of the People's Army, including the heroic working class who are endlessly loyal to the party and the leader [suryong]; and the good health of foreign friends and all comrade who are participating in this banquet.

More on Banquet

SK1608052295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 16(KCNA) — The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave a banquet at the Sinhung Restaurant in Hamhung Tuesday in celebration of the 50th anniversary of national liberation.

Present there were premier Kang Song-san and Vice-presidents Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and Kim Yong-chu who are members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea; Vice-president Kim Pyong-sik who is chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; other senior party and state cadres, chief secretaries of provincial party committees, commission chairmen and ministers of the Administration Council, leading officials of central state organs and working people's organizations, anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, generals of the Korean People's Army, leading officials of the party and power bodies, administrative and economic organs in South Hamgyong Province and Hamhung city, heroes of the Republic, labour heroes, those of meritorious services and those who had honoured with audience of the president.

Also present there were members of the educationists delegation of Chongnyon now staying in the socialist motherland.

Invited were Yuriy Fadeyev, Russian ambassador to Korea and embassy officials.

Vice-president Yi Chong-ok made a speech at the banquet.

He said:

The Korean people's victory in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and national liberation were the great historical events which established the sovereignty of the nation and brought the emergence of chuche Korea. This historical cause of the nation was an immortal great feat performed by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song for the country and the nation.

Comrade Kim Il-song liberated the country through the 20 year- long anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, wisely led the struggle of our people to build a new society for nearly 50 years and built socialist Korea of chuche, rich and civilized, Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses on this land.

The cause of building socialist Korea started by Comrade Kim Il-song is being successfully carried forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and our country is now ushering in a heyday of prosperity and development.

All the people are vigorously conducting a general onward movement for the prosperity and development of the socialist country, full of conviction and optimism, on the most durable and stable political foundations, the singlehearted unity of the whole party, the entire Army and all the people around Comrade Kim Chong-il has been cemented invincible and the whole society has been turned into a harmonious large family helping and leading one another forward.

To glorify the socialist country as a glorious state of Comrade Kim Il-song forever, upholding the idea and leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, is the sacred task and steadfast will of all our people.

We should unite around Comrade Kim Chong-il, achieve eternal prosperity of the socialist country and accomplish the chuche revolutionary cause, upholding his leadership with loyalty and filial piety in one mind.

We will achieve the cause of national reunification at an early date without fail through a more powerful nationwide reunification movement under the banner of the ten-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation, true to the behests of the fatherly leader President Kim Il-song for reunification, and actively contribute to achieving global independence in firm unity with the people of all countries the world over who are defending independence in the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

Wreaths Laid Before Liberation Tower in Hamhung

SK1508152595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — A wreath in the joint name of the C.C.

[Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was laid on Tuesday before the Liberation Tower in Hamhung, an industrial city on the eastern coast of Korea, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation.

Wreaths were also laid there in the name of the Ministry of the People' Armed Forces, the Foreign Ministry, the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, the party, power, administrative and economic organs, factories and enterprises in South Hamgyong Province and Hamhung.

Written on ribbons hanging from the wreaths are letters "Glory to martyrs of Soviet Army ".

A wreath in the name of the Russian Embassy in Pyongyang as also laid before the tower.

A guard of three honour of the Korean People's Army [KPA] was lining up at the tower.

Present at the wreath-laying ceremony were Vice-premier of the Administration Council and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, a Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee, Vice-premier Kim Pok- sin, officials concerned, generals and officers of the KPA and working people.

Also seen there were Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev and his embassy officials.

The participants paid a silent tribute to the memory of the martyrs of the Soviet Army fallen in battles for Korea's liberation.

On the same day, wreaths and bouquets were laid before the liberation tower, statues and cemeteries of soldiers of the Soviet Army in Pyongyang and local areas.

Chongnyon Committee Chairman Visits Statue

*SK1508114695 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1110 GMT 15 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), visited the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill to pay homage to him today.

Han Tok-su laid a bouquet of flowers before the statue of President Kim Il-song, the great sun and benevolent father of the nation, who devoted himself to the prosperity of the country, happiness of the people and national reunification, and made a bow with deep reverence for him.

Chongnyon Sends Greetings to Kim Chong-il

*SK1508042795 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0411 GMT 15 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — A message of greetings was sent to the great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il by the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation.

The message says national liberation by the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song 50 years ago was a solemn declaration of the advent of a new era in which the country and the nation put an end to the distress-torn history and embarked on the building of a new life and a brilliant victory of his ardent patriotism and great line of independence.

As the nation was liberated by Generalissimo Kim Il-song and the socialist country centred on the popular masses was built by him and has been developed by you Marshal Kim Chong-il, the Korean residents in Japan have become overseas citizens of a sovereign state and enjoyed a proud and dignified life as patriots, making a new world history of overseas citizens' movement, the message says, and continues:

We will unite all the Koreans in Japan and overseas compatriots in line with the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation put forward by Generalissimo Kim Il-song and fully discharge our noble obligation and duty as his soldiers and disciples in the movement for the reunification of the country.

We, in hearty response to the historic letter you respected general sent to Chongnyon on its 40th anniversary, will further strengthen Chongnyon as a patriotic organization faithful to your idea and leadership and put the movement of Koreans in Japan on a higher stage, thus further developing our country, our homeland and keeping the leadership feats of the fatherly leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song shining for all ages as intended by you.

The message wishes respected Marshal Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

NDFSK Sends Message to Kim Chong-il

*SK1508045095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0444 GMT 15 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il Tuesday received a congratulatory message from the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea [NDFSK] on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation.

The congratulatory message says Korea was liberated from the Japanese imperialist colonial rule on August 15, a historic event worthy of special mention, which opened up a new epoch in shaping the destiny of the Korean nation.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a peerless patriot, legendary hero and saviour of national liberation, who liberated the country and people from the dark rule of the Japanese imperialists by dispelling the dark clouds of national ruin without parallel in history, the message says, and continues:

Great changes have been effected in the northern half of Korea under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il since the country was liberated on August 15.

Comrade Kim Il-song built a powerful socialist country centred on the masses — independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in national defence — and Comrade Kim Chong-il has led the chuche cause to a broad avenue to certain victory, thus bringing about a great heyday of socialist Korea.

As Comrade Kim Chong-il taught them how to hew out their destinies with the brilliant rays of chuche and gave them a weapon of faith, the vanguard fighters of NDFSK have made their way through bloody struggle for national salvation against the United States and fascism.

NDFSK will pull its weight to build up itself and the ranks of transformation movement and encourage people of all walks of life to a struggle for national emancipation and the implementation of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation under the uplifted banner of the chuche idea so as to bring earlier a decisive victory of independence, democracy and reunification.

In conclusion, the message wishes Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

Russian President Sends Message to Kim Chong-il

SK1508111995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1113 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a message from Russian President B. Yeltsin on the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation.

In the message dated August 14 the Russian president extends heartfelt congratulations in the name of the Russian people and in his own to Comrade Kim Chong-il and all the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the 50th liberation day of Korea.

The message affirms that Russia will make efforts so that flames of war will never flare up in Korea, which has a long history, and that all problems on the Korean peninsula may be settled peacefully in the interest of the Korean people and peace and security in Northeast Asia.

The message wishes Comrade Kim Chong-il and all the people of the DPRK health, success and prosperity.

Envoys Send Floral Baskets to Kim Chong-il

SK1508050595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0453 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received floral baskets and congratulatory letters from diplomatic envoys of different countries to Korea on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation.

The floral baskets and congratulatory letters were handed to officials concerned by the diplomatic envoys of Cambodia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Egypt, Palestine, Russia, Yugoslavia, Yemen and Syria.

Kim Chong-il Sends Wreath to Bier of Pak Min

SK1508115095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1114 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il today sent a wreath to the bier of Pak Min, a people's actor at the Korean film stars' troupe, expressing deep sorrow at his death.

Articles View Kim Il-song's Exploits

SK1508050395 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0451 GMT 15 Aug 95

["Comrade Kim Il-song's Exploits Immortal" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today dedicates an editorial headlined "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song's Exploits for Motherland Will Be Immortal" to the 50th liberation day.

The editorial says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the liberator of Korea, the benefactor of the Korean nation and the founding father of socialist Korea. He freed Korea from Japanese colonial rule, revived the Korean nation and provided them with a happy life and built a socialist paradise in Korea.

His greatest historic exploit for the country and the people is that he restored and firmly defended the sovereignty and dignity of the country and the nation.

Korea was under colonial rule 50 years ago. Comrade Kim Il-song led the 20 years of anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to victory through a sea of blood and flame, put an end to the history of national ruin and humiliation, opened a new era of the national- liberation revolution in colonies and liberated Korea.

Besides, he victoriously led the hard-fought fatherland liberation war, firmly defended the sovereignty and dignity of the country and the nation and made the Koreans world- famous as a heroic people.

Another exploit of his is that he built a powerful socialist state, independent, self-sufficient and self- reliant in national defence, after the liberation of the country.

Another one is that he laid the solid foundations to exalt Korea as the land of chuche and the Koreans as a great nation faithful to the traditions of Mt. Paektu forever.

Not only for today but for tomorrow of the country and the nation, he built the ever-victorious party, the people's government, the powerful independent national economy, fine national culture and the self-reliant defence capabilities with the invincible People's Army at the core, which the Korean people have today.

Especially, he laid the firm foundation for eternal prosperity of Korea under the leadership of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il. This is the most precious exploit he performed for the future of the country.

We will always remember that thanks to Comrade Kim Il-song, we are blessed with illustrious leaders generation after generation. We will convey this great favor to posterity.

We must firmly defend and exalt forever the immortal exploits performed by him in building a powerful socialist state of chuche.

MINJU CHOSON comes out with an editorial titled "The Revolutionary Exploits of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song in Accomplishing the Historic Cause of National Liberation Will Be Immortal."

Palestinian President Honors Kim Il-song

SK1508041595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0400 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, sent a floral basket to the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the country.

The floral basket was laid before the statue by charge d'affaires ad interim of the Palestinian Embassy in Pyongyang Ibrahim Abu Mualek. [name as received]

Written in the ribbon hanging on the floral basket were letters "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is immortal".

Daily Criticizes Japan for 'War Crimes'

SK1508132395 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
0400 GMT 14 Aug 95

[NODONG SINMUN 14 August commentator's article: "A Discussion on Japan's Attitude Toward its History of Aggression and Crimes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is 50 years since the Japanese imperialism was given a stern trial of history to ruin. Half a century is not a short period of time. Japan had to do a lot of things for the past half a century to settle accounts with its crimes against mankind. Japan is a defeated country and a war criminal both in name and reality. In view of international law, humanism, and morality, it is Japan's unavoidable responsibility, duty, and task to repent on its history of aggression and crimes and apologize and compensate for it.

This is why the world has watched Japan's attitude, and man expected Japan would put an end to its criminal history and make a new start to reconciliation and peace on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its defeat. However, Japan remains as the only country that does not even recognize its history of aggression and crimes. This is today's Japan that calls itself an economic power and desires to become a political power.

Many large and small aggressions and wars are recorded in history. Herein were winners and losers. It is common usage in modern history that not only defeated countries but victorious countries which committed acts running counter to international law and morality acknowledge, repent on, and apologize for their wrongdoings.

Let us take European countries as examples. Germany committed a war crime against mankind in collusion with Japan during World War II. After the war, Germany acknowledged and apologized officially in the name of the country for its responsibility for the war of putting mankind through a large disaster and has made compensation for it. Considering not only countries but also individuals who have suffered from the war as the subject of compensation, Germany paid them about 100 billion German marks and promised to continue to pay compensation until the 21st century. Italy also apologized and made compensation for its crimes in the war, and so did Austria and Hungary, which had followed Germans.

The neutral nation Switzerland also acknowledged its wrongdoings at that time. Though it was a victorious country, France admitted its historical responsibility for the crimes committed by the French puppet government while it was occupied by the German fascism. In July, the French president made a public commitment to offer state- level compensation for the victims. This is regarded as an act of respecting international law and humanitarian principles and shows that France feels guilty. It also shows France's desire to win the people's confidence, promote reconciliation, and live undauntedly as a member of the international community.

In a speech at the Japanese National Education Center in Tokyo, former German President Richard Von Weizsacker, who visited Japan several days ago, said the previous German Governments' apology and compensation for the Nazi regime's crimes served as a decisive factor that enabled Germany to reconciliate with other countries which were invaded during World War II and to be accepted by the international community. He continued to say that, in light of Germany's experience, actual compensation is more important than words.

As shown above, not only war criminals and their followers but also neutral countries and even victorious countries officially admitted their responsibility for war crimes and settled or are settling accounts with them. However, Japan particularly does not even recognize its history of aggression and crimes and acts clumsily.

The Japanese imperialism committed many tremendous antihumanitarian and antihistoric crimes in the past. With the ambition to conquer Asia and become a power in the world, the Japanese imperialism constantly provoked aggressions and war. Its crimes against the Asian people, including Chinese and Southeast Asian countries' people, were all beyond imagination. The Japanese imperialists occupied our country illegally and practiced a savage colonial rule. They took about 6 million people by force, massacred more than 1 million people, put approximately 200,000 women to sex slavery, and ruined or plundered enormous resources and cultural assets.

If the Japanese authorities have even an ounce of conscience and reason, they should first of all recognize the history of aggression and crimes, let alone completely follow the previous examples of other countries. Nevertheless, Japan is not doing this. Here appears Japan's undivided vulgarness and brazenfacedness.

For what reason are the Japanese authorities not recognizing this while beautifying and embellishing the history of their past aggression and crimes? In other words, what is their true intention?

Originally, Japan hated to repent of its historical wrongdoing. Japan is a country with a chronic vicious habit of justifying it. However, the reason Japan is refusing to even recognize its history of aggression and crimes is not because of that chronic vicious habit. Commonly, a criminal does not recognize the crime he has committed. This is because he has no intention to [word indistinct], but only to repeat his crime. Here lies Japan's severeness and graveness of its unjust act of trying to deny its past crimes to the utmost.

If the Japanese reactionaries recognize the history of their past aggression and crimes, it will be inevitable for them to promise before the international society that they will not repeat such aggression and crimes. The Japanese reactionaries think that this is just like binding the fetter of reinvasion by themselves.

Japan's ambition for reinvasion was not budded yesterday or today. Such an ambition sprouted right after its defeat, and with the rapid rebirth of militarism, it became all the more blazing and greedy.

The Japanese reactionaries cried for revenge as a means to get even for the defeat; ambitiously fostered their military might to realize their dream of the old big power under the patronage of the United States; and have accelerated on a full-scale preparations for reinvasion. Today, the Japanese reactionaries are trying to realize their ambition, which was harbored in their minds 50 years ago, by using the strength they fostered for 50 years. Here lies one of the main intentions for the Japanese reactionaries to not recognize their history of aggression and crimes.

Regarding such a Japan, a former German president said that a person who has no will to resolve his history will not understand where he stands today and why he is there, and a person denying the past will repeat the past at any time.

The superiority of the [Yamado] nation is filled to the marrow by the Japanese reactionaries. Because of this, the Japanese imperialists invaded Asian countries including our country and mercilessly infringed upon and obliterated the human rights of the people in this region.

The superiority of the samurai clan which looks down on and despises other countries and nations, lives even today, and the Japanese reactionaries are yearning for the time when they invaded, forcibly occupied, and dominated the wide land of Asia, thus, they are sharpening the knife to realize without fail the old dream of the greater Asian co-prosperity sphere.

Another purpose for the Japanese authorities to not recognize their history of aggression and crimes lies in avoiding the compensation for Japan's past criminal acts. Currently, demand for just compensation regarding the past criminal acts committed by Japan is being heightened worldwide. However, while pursuing only its selfish purpose, Japan is avoiding this. Brazenfacedly, they are calculating that if they do not recognize the history of aggression and crimes, they can be free from the responsibility of compensation.

All such acts by the Japanese reactionaries are reckless acts. This is preposterously foolish. History is objective and unchangeable. Historic facts do not disappear because someone denies it, and history does not change even if someone does not recognize it and distorts it. Japan's history of aggression and crimes cannot by any means disappear and be denied, and the more the Japanese authorities deny it, the more it will only bring about hatred and disillusion toward Japan by the world's people.

Japan is an assailant. Japan and the Asian countries that suffered Japan's aggression are in assailant-victim relations in legal terms. International law obligates an assailant to apologize to and compensate a victim and asks the assailant to sincerely fulfill its obligation.

Japan's past crimes are state and international crimes. As for state crimes, international law requires that the state in question take responsibility for them. This is international practice. International law allows no exception or prescription.

Japan, a member of the international community and a state responsible for its past crimes, ignores its legal responsibility and duty. This is nothing but an act that shows its unlawful nature in the face of the world.

Japan harmed other countries. Therefore, from a moral point of view, its duty is to apologize and give compensation for its wrongdoings.

Fulfilling one's responsibility and moral duty under international law is a rule and requirement in international life. Any country that ignores this rule and requirement cannot win international trust and has no qualification to live in the global village.

As a matter of fact, Japan has lost such a qualification and is in a difficult position to reconcile itself with the Asian countries and live harmoniously with them. Therefore, the Japanese reactionaries are very uneasy and are trying to find a way out under circumstances in which they do not know what to do. When compensation and reparations for their past crimes are demanded more strongly, the Japanese authorities insist on agreements and are trying to employ cunning tricks. This will not work. Their bilateral agreements with a series of countries and regions which they present as a legal ground are all fraudulent illegal and invalid ones.

The South Korean-Japan agreement is a good example. This agreement, which was fabricated in the sixties, is a deceptive and high-handed agreement. This is, in essence, another Ulsa Five-point Treaty [signed in 1905 between the Korean Empire and Japan on the transfer of the Korean Empire's right to diplomacy to Japan]. If the Ulsa Five-point Treaty was an illegal agreement on aggression that was completely fabricated under the Japanese imperialists' pressure, the South Korea-Japan agreement is an illegal and invalid one fabricated under Japan's political and diplomatic pressure.

When fabricating this agreement, Japan made virtually no apology or compensation. They enforced unreasonable [word indistinct] and provided the South Korean toadyist nation-sellers with a small amount of money in credit and free assistance as if they were providing charity. Based on this trick, Japan raved that the problem concerning the past has been solved. This is an intolerable defilement and mockery of our people and Asian people.

More disgusting is Japan's attitude toward its crime concerning comfort women for the troops. On 19 July, the Japanese Government formally inaugurated a civilian organization called the Asian Peace Citizens Fund for Women as a way to solve the comfort women problem. The main point is that this organization collects donations from ordinary citizens and gives them to former comfort women who are alive as consolation money.

The comfort women problem can be correctly solved only between the legal parties concerned — the Japanese Government, the assailant; and former comfort women, the victims — because the Japanese Government committed the crime concerning comfort women. Accordingly, the Japanese Government must take the responsibility and give state-level compensation. However, according to the Asian Peace Citizens Fund for Women, the Japanese Government tries to avoid all its responsibility as assailant. In other words, the Japanese Government offers only a small amount of management and operation fund to the civilian organization and lets it collect donations from Japanese citizens and give them to living former comfort women as consolation money, so as to avoid its responsibility to give compensation as a legal party involved in the crime concerning comfort women.

The Japanese ruling folks adopted a so-called parliamentary resolution on the 50th anniversary of the ceasefire in June, including a document on differences in opinion on history — which facilitates denying the past at any time — and attempted to produce an impression that Japan happened to be involved in crimes committed by someone else. The resolution has no comment with regard to Japan's apology, compensation, and promise to give up war. The Japanese authorities' craftiness reaches this level.

In the international community, an apology without compensation is hypocrisy, and compensation without apology is nothing but calculation. It is not merely by chance that we hear such conscientious and rational voices as that making an apology lacking honesty is even worse than keeping silent. If we overlook Japan's behavior of denying its history of aggression and crimes and avoiding the settlement of account with it, Japan will act more audaciously and become more haughty and impolite. This may give precedent for criminals not to apologize and give compensation or reparation. As a result, complicated international political problems may arise, and international law and morality may be infringed.

Therefore, making Japan recognize its history of aggression and crimes and give compensation and reparation for it is a common task of not only the people who were invaded by Japan and have suffered from it, but all the people of the world. Those who value justice and truth and respect international law and humanitarian principles should not allow Japan's shameless and senseless acts.

The people of the world should also be put on keen alertness against the prevailing militarist forces in Japan. Japanese militarist forces are desperately trying to make Japan a military power and are accelerating its nuclear armament under the pretext that they should cope with new threats following the Cold War. They are also trying to open a road to its overseas invasion under various ruses.

Japan has grown as the most dangerous hotbed of aggression and war in Asia. What Japan aims at is not only Asia but the entire world. In preventing disasters, the sooner, the better. If the peace-loving people of the world unite themselves to wage a strong struggle against the Japanese militarist forces, the latter will be frustrated. Japan has so far acted like stabbing its own eyes with its fingers.

If Japan admitted its criminal past and settled account with it in a timely manner, it could avoid being disgraceful in the international arena, being denounced by the international community, and leaving a disgraceful and bad name behind it. The Japanese authorities are not able to foresee. Japan will not be able to do anything unless it discards the evil dream for militarism and stops behaving impolitely; far from being a political power, it will fail to win international confidence and cannot live audaciously without worry. Unless it correctly settles account with its past, Japan will not win the people's confidence forever, neither can it avoid denunciation and opposition from the people of the world who love justice, advance, and peace.

Our people have the due right to be given an apology, compensation, and reparation by Japan. Our people will never concede their esteem and national interests. Japan should not avoid its historic responsibility for its criminal past and should not repeat serious lessons from its defeat.

ROK Students Hold Reunification Festival

SK1508113095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1049 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — Some 10,000 students affiliated with the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils held a reunification festival of students and a concert for reunification at the open-air theatre of Hanyang University Sunday within the framework of the August 15 joint national celebration, a radio report from Seoul said.

They had colorful cultural events, chanting in high spirits "Let us reunify the country through confederation" and "Abolish the 'National Security Law'".

Their activities took place, strictly cordoned off by riot police.

Cuba's Fidel Castro Meets DPRK Youth Group

SK1608080795 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
2100 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 6 August, Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met with the DPRK youths delegation headed by Kim Tong-yun, vice chairman of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea.

At the meeting, the delegation head conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz. Comrade Fidel Castro

Ruz expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the delegation head to convey his wholehearted greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz thanked the DPRK youths delegation for participating in an international youths festival held in Cuba.

Foreign Envoys Visit Kim Il-song's Statue

SK1508042395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0358 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — Indonesian Ambassador to Korea Zulkarnain Afri Pane and Nigerian Ambassador to Korea Olugbenga Ayodeji Ashiru visited the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill to lay floral baskets and make bows on August 14 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Korea.

Cuban Arrives for Reunification Festival

SK1508050495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — Roberto Vasquez Medina, executive secretary of the Cuban Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification, flew to Pyongyang on Monday to participate in the grand national reunification festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of national liberation as a guest of honor.

The guest was met by an official concerned.

Congolese Holiday Observed in Pyongyang

SK1508112995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA) — A meeting took place in Pyongyang on Monday in celebration of the 35th national holiday of the Republic of the Congo.

Present at the meeting were Chon Yon-ok, chairwoman of the Korea- Congo Friendship Association and vice-chairwoman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries; Choe Hyon-tok, vice- chairman of the association and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea; officials concerned and working people in the city.

A speech was made at the meeting.

A congratulatory message to the Congolese president was adopted at the meeting.

South Korea

KEDO Team Arrives in Pyongyang 15 Aug

SK1508145295 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1412 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A light-water reactor site survey team of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization [KEDO] composed of ROK, U.S., and Japanese experts arrived in Pyongyang this afternoon via Beijing.

Kang Yun-kwan, our side's delegate and director in charge of construction and technology at the Office of the Planning for the light-water reactor project, stated: The KEDO survey team will visit the Sinpo area, which North Korea has suggested as a construction site, for an on-the-spot survey and the extraction of specimens to see if it is an appropriate site for constructing a light-water reactor. After visiting North Korea, the survey team will return to the ROK to analyze its survey results and assess whether the area is appropriate as a reactor construction site.

The 10-member KEDO survey team is headed by Sol Rosen, of the office of nuclear ambassador of the U.S. State Department, and includes four ROK experts and four Japanese experts.

KEDO Oil Tanker To Leave for North 17 Aug

SK1608064695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0636 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ulsan, South Korea, Aug. 16 (YONHAP) — Yukong, Ltd. is preparing Wednesday to ship the heavy oil it was scheduled to supply North Korea.

Yukong, which was selected by the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) to provide the second consignment of the heavy oil, 40,000 tons, to the North, plans to send the first 20,000 tons of Bunker-C oil to North Korea on a Chinese tanker provided by KEDO.

The 38,000-ton-oil carrier "Wei Shan Hu" along with its 37-man crew will leave the port of Ulsan at 8:00 AM Thursday and navigate 778 kilometers northward to arrive at Sonbong port in North Korea around 3:00 PM Saturday.

Yukong said it plans to ship the remaining 20,000 tons of Bunker-C oil sometime between Aug. 20-24.

The United States signed an agreement with North Korea at the Geneva talks last year to provide the latter with 100,000 tons of heavy oil through KEDO in 1995 as fuel for thermoelectric power generation.

Under the agreement, KEDO will also provide 300,000 tons of heavy oil in 1996 and 500,000 tons of heavy oil every year from 1997 through 2003, when the light-water reactors in North Korea are scheduled to be completed.

Seoul, Washington Discuss Sharing USFK Costs

SK1608090395 Seoul YONHAP in English
0814 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP) — South Korean and U.S. officials meeting in Seoul Wednesday started to discuss the issue of sharing the burden of maintaining U.S. Forces in South Korea [USFK] from 1996 and beyond.

Defense Policy Chief Pak Yong-ok is heading the South Korean delegation to the two-day working-level meeting while Ambassador-at-large for burden sharing Ray Caldwell is the chief U.S. delegate, the Defense Ministry announced.

The U.S. team is expected to demand a continuous increase in South Korea's contribution to USFK next year and thereafter citing U.S. defense spending cuts and South Korea's economic development as justifications, but South Korea is expected to offer only an inflation-adjusted increase from its current contribution of 300 million dollars for 1995.

The two countries discussed the matter in Washington last June.

The 300 million dollars is South Korea's direct payment to the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) this year and the amount would rise to more than 2 billion dollars if the land and the Korean Augmentation Troops to the U.S. Army (KATUSA) and the tax exemptions granted to it are taken into account, according to the ministry.

Defense Ministry To Buy Missiles From U.S.

SK1508001295 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 15 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Defense Ministry plans to purchase an unknown number of antitank missiles and air-to-air missiles worth 20 billion won (roughly $25 million) and 30 billion won, respectively, from the United States, an informed ministry source said yesterday.

The purchase of TOW-2A antitank missiles and AIM-120 medium-range air-to-air missiles (AMRAAM) will be conducted phase by phase beginning next year, said the source who wanted to remain unnamed.

The TOW-2A is an improved version of the TOW missiles the South Korean Army has, with higher accuracy and more destructive power. The AIM-120 is intended for the F-16s being produced under the Korea Fighter Program which calls for introduction of 120 Fighting Falcons by 1999.

The ministry has also decided that domestic firms will produce light torpedoes for the Navy submarines and destroyers by early 2000s, said the source.

Na Ung-pae Urges 'Normal' North-South Dialogue

SK1608052595 Seoul YONHAP in English
0507 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP) — National Unification Minister Na Ung-pae said Wednesday should the North Koreans come to a "normal South-North dialogue as soon as possible and faithfully observe South-North agreements," his government would take more positive and drastic measures to promote economic cooperation with the North.

Speaking at the opening session of the forum for ethnic Koreans around the world on national unification held at the Sejong Cultural Center, South Korea's chief unification policymaker stated that without South-North dialogues inter-Korean cooperation and the South's aid to the North would be limited.

To bring about change in North Korea for improved inter-Korean relations, the South should stick to the principle of solving security issues, such as the North's nuclear development plan and a peace treaty on the Korean peninsula, through a direct South-North dialogue on the one hand and seek to change the North by continuing to promote exchange and cooperation programs on the other, Na remarked.

In pursuing the unification policy based on national consensus and support, the government will make consistent and patient efforts to improve inter-Korean relations in a manner that will induce the North to adopt policy changes or shifts on the basis of political stability, he added.

Noting that this is a time for all Koreans around the world to pay more attention to the difficulties facing North Korean citizens, Na said that although inter-Korean cooperation programs like the rice aid to the North may go up and down in the short run, they would be realistic steps toward national unification in the long run, if they were promoted continuously and with patience in such a way as to build mutual trust between both Koreas.

Seoul To Send Rice Aid to North as Scheduled

SK1608051295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0501 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP) — Na Ung-pae, deputy prime minister and concurrently national unification minister, said Wednesday that South Korea will continue rice aid deliveries to North Korea as originally scheduled.

Reporting recent developments in inter-Korean relations to the National Assembly's National Unification and Foreign Affairs Committee, he said, "The government will complete delivery of the remaining 65,000 tons of rice aid of the promised 150,000 tons."

He said that since the rice aid started from the viewpoint of brotherly love, it should be continued as promised despite the facts that North Korea forced a South Korean rice-carrying ship to hoist the North Korean national flag and detained another rice carrier for alleged spying.

"We cannot rule out the possibility that these unexpected developments may negatively affect inter-Korean relations. But if the rice aid is completed successfully, it will contribute to the promotion of mutual trust between South and North Korea, which will lead to reconciliation and cooperation between the South and North," he said.

At the meeting, ruling and opposition lawmakers criticized the government's policy towards the North, arguing the unexpected incidents undermined the true cause of the rice aid.

They demanded that the government explain about the allegedly disorderly management of its North Korea policy. Some lawmakers even urged the government to immediately stop the rice aid negotiations and dismiss related ministers.

Daily Gives Background on North's Chon Kum-chol

SK1408071995 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 14 Aug 95 p 14

[Report by Min Pyong-yong, researcher at the Unification Issue Research Institute: "Chon Kum-chol, North Korean Delegate to Rice Talks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are several strategists handling South Korean affairs in North Korea who have both theoretical and working-level talents. Chon Kum-chol, 61, is one of them. He is known as the highest working-level official responsible for reunification issues and in the field of dialogue. He attracted the people's attention by attending the North-South rice talks in Beijing in June and July as the North Korean delegate. He was expected to appear again at the third round of talks slated for 10 August. The forcible detention of Samson Venus, the rice-carrying vessel, however, indefinitely delayed the talks.

In 1961, immediately after the 19 April incident [students' riot in South Korea forcing then President Syngman Rhee to step down], Chon Kum-chol began to handle South Korean affairs. He was a member of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF], which was organized with a view to waging an active unification offensive by taking advantage of the confusion in South Korea's political situation. In 1972, he visited Seoul as a spokesman of the North Korean delegation to the North-South Coordination Committee. Thus, he has been handling reunification issues for more than 30 years.

He was deputy to North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, and once worked as a North Korean delegate to North-South parliamentary talks.

He is presently vice chairman of the CPRF, vice chairman of the DPRK Asian-Pacific Committee, adviser for the Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation, vice chairman of the North side's headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification, director of the Reunification Issue Research Institute, vice chairman of the DPRK Anti-Nuclear Peace Committee, and chairman of the joint committee for reconciliation at the North-South high-level talks.

He is an expert in the propaganda sector, and has been a customary subject of interviews by U.S. reporters visiting North Korea. He is known to be an eloquent speaker with an extraordinary and outstanding memory. He used to show a vigorous, gallant, and free-hearted nature at drinking parties. Yet, he is called a "human computer."

Born in Unggi, North Hamgyong Province in 1934, he graduated from the Law Department of Kim Il-song University. When repatriation of Korean residents in Japan to North Korea was launched in the early sixties, he travelled between Wonsan and Nihigata, Japan, and worked as a "functionary" of the DPRK Red Cross Central Committee.

When South Korean student Yim Su-kyong visited North Korea in 1989, he unhesitatingly made bellicose remarks that "a war would be inevitable if North-South dialogue is broken and national reunification is not achieved."

He did not show up at official functions for about two years after Yon Hyong-muk, then premier of the Administration Council, was dismissed. However, he appeared again at an official meeting last March. Calling himself a functionary for peaceful reunification, Chon Kum-chol and his pediatrician wife have two sons and one daughter. He was known to be a person less stubborn during North-South talks.

North Returns Farmer Who Strayed Over Border

SK1608091895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0851 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP) — North Korea released a 54-year-old South Korean farmer Monday [14 August], 14 days after he accidentally entered North Korea near the Tumen River, which borders North Korea and China, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

The farmer, identified as Yi Chong-kun, who also runs a brewery in his hometown of Hamyang County, South Kyongsang Province, was released after being interrogated by North Korean officials about the circumstances of his accidental entry into the North on July 31, the spokesman said.

Yi was swept away by swift currents while swimming to a small Chinese island in the Tumen River where he was to meet the son of his elder brother, a coal miner in North Hamgyong Province, the spokesman said.

Yi was rescued by a few North Koreans who then took him to the North and given needy medical treatment, the spokesman said.

Yi flew to China on July 23 to meet his brother with whom he has communicated via a Korean-Chinese resident in Yanji, Jilin Province, since June, according to the spokesman.

A local broker arranged for Yi to see his nephew on the small island in the Tumen River, according to the spokesman.

North Korea handed Yi over to the Chinese police Monday and on Wednesday China turned Yi over to Consul Kim Mun-ho, at the South Korean embassy in Beijing, who was dispatched to Yanji city, the spokesman said.

Yi will fly to Beijing Thursday and is expected to return to Seoul later that same day or early Friday, at which time he will be questioned by law-enforcement authorities, the spokesman said.

English Education in North Korea Reported

95P30120A

[FBIS Editorial Report] The June Seoul PUKHAN in Korean on pages 178-187 reported that English is currently the most widely taught and promoted foreign language in North Korea. English instruction was banned in 1948, but resumed in the 1960's. In the 1970's, English was as highly regarded as Russian, and since the early 1990's it has become the principal foreign language in the country.

According to PUKHAN, the rationale behind teaching English appears to have changed over the years from a belligerent purpose to a desire to promote international relations. An Myong-chol, a North Korean who defected to South Korea last September, was quoted in PUKHAN as saying that teachers used to tell their students to learn English to defeat "the American bastards," but they now say that North Koreans should be trained to deal with foreigners on a personal level and in diplomatic relations. A former North Korean diplomat, Ko Yong-hwan, reportedly asserted that learning English would be useful because North Koreans are bound to encounter U.S. "imperialists" in the event of reunification and because the language is so widely used in the world.

According to PUKHAN CHONGNAM, a comprehensive reference book on North Korea published in Seoul, Kim Il-song, in a speech in 1971, advised young people to learn at least a few phrases in English and Japanese, in particular simple military phrases such as "Raise your hands!" and "If you drop your weapons and surrender, we won't shoot you," in case they have to deal with "captured enemies."

PUKHAN reported that in 1977, Kim Il-song, addressing the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, had noted that there were few North Koreans fluent in foreign languages, and that this was hampering the country's efforts in external relations. Kim also stressed the need to train language teachers and to teach youths to become fluent in at least one foreign language, the magazine stated. It also noted that English-language textbooks serve as a medium to extol the virtues of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il and promote "class conflicts" and "revolutionary ideas."

North Korea allowed the teaching of English to resume in the mid-1960's. According to the 15 March CHOSON ILBO (retrieved from the CHOLLIAN database), the DPRK designated English as the primary foreign language in the country in 1991. In 1985, North Korea started teaching English one hour per week in the fourth grade in primary school (equivalent to the 6th grade in the United States), the paper said. However, the North Korean defector An was quoted by PUKHAN as saying that in the DPRK English instruction is offered four times a week in primary school, three hours in high school, and five hours in college. CHOSON ILBO said that the DPRK Government designates the schools that can teach foreign languages and chooses the languages they will teach. The paper also said that when both Russian and English were category-one foreign languages, more schools taught Russian than English (at a six-to-four ratio). However, since 1991 a majority of schools have been teaching English, the paper reported.

According to PUKHAN, English is taught to party and government officials, workers at major factories, and scientists in three- or six-month courses held at the Great Study Hall of the People. In addition, organizations that require foreign language skills, such as hotels and customs offices, have their own language programs. Television and radio reportedly broadcast English-language programs for the general public. For example, the Korean Central Television Network has a weekly 15-minute program which is repeated once during the same week, while a cable broadcasting station has a 30-minute program in English three times a day. In the late 1970's, English dictionaries, cassette tapes, and reference books were widely available, but the shortage of paper and other resources in recent years may have affected the availability of such learning aids, the magazine said.

Murayama Sends Personal Letter to Kim Yong-sam

SK1608062295 Seoul YONHAP in English
0615 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam received Tuesday afternoon a personal letter from Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama admitting that Japan caused "great damage and suffering" to Koreans during its colonial rule, the presidential office said Wednesday.

The letter also states that Japan's deep self-reflection on its past should be made the basis upon which Seoul-Tokyo relations are improved, the office said.

The Japanese prime minister reportedly expressed a "sincere" hope that "the Republic of Korea and Japan, which share the values of freedom, democracy and market economy, will further develop friendly and cooperative relations."

Murayama pledged that he would spare no effort to further solidify a future-oriented relationship between the two countries.

Police Detain Chinese for 'Illegal Fishing'

SK1508023095 Seoul YONHAP in English
0041 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Inchon, Aug. 15 (YONHAP) — The South Korean maritime police detained Tuesday two Chinese fishing boat skippers who were allegedly engaged in illegal fishing in South Korean territorial waters for violation of the territorial waters law. The two were identified as Wei Jicheng, 39, and Yu Tao, 38, of the 90-ton Luyingyu Nos. 1011 and 1012, respectively.

The police booked 22 crew members of the two Chinese fishing boats without physical restraints.

The boats were alleged to have violated South Korean territorial waters at around 6:30 PM Sunday and were engaged in fishing on seas 8.5 miles southwest of Sochong-to Island, Ongjin County, Kyonggi Province, a spokesman for the maritime police said.

Seoul Paid Inflated Price for Madrid Embassy

SK1408112495 Seoul YONHAP in English
1039 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (YONHAP) — The South Korean Embassy in Madrid purchased a land for new embassy building unreasonably in February 1992 when land prices were soaring there, causing a large waste in national budget, a Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) official said Monday.

The official said this was found in an on-the-spot inspection of the embassy conducted jointly by the BAI and the Foreign Ministry for two weeks beginning last July 12.

"The embassy was found to have bought the land at a time when land prices were skyrocketing in Spain spurred by the Barcelona Olympics and Spain's entry into the European Community," he said.

The embassy, the official said, ought to have bought it after the overpricing calmed down there.

He said there were no irregularities on the part of former ambassadors to Spain Chang Myong-kwan and Kwon Tae-ung in connection with the land purchase.

"But, an appropriate step is expected to be taken against the then Consul Chong, presently a department director in Seoul, who was in charge of the embassy's general affairs at that time," the official said.

While pointing out that the problem had arisen in the course of excess promotion by the Foreign Ministry of a project to nationalize overseas mission offices, the BAI urged the ministry to carry out projects more prudently.

Korean residents in Spain asserted that the embassy bought the land at 425 million pesetas (4,009,000 dollars), but an appraisal made by an official Spanish appraisal office put its value at no more than 190,340,000 pesetas (roughly 2.2 million dollars).

Seoul To Examine Foreigners' Working Conditions

SK1208011895 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Aug 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy will soon conduct an extensive on-site examination of the conditions of the employment of foreign workers in order to determine how many more workers will be brought in to solve industry's worsening labor shortages.

The ministry decision was made after President Kim Yong-sam hinted at the possibility of allowing in additional foreign worker-trainees in an expanded meeting with representatives of 30 big business groups at Chongwadae [presidential offices] Wednesday.

The number of workers to be additionally introduced will be decided after the ministry conducts an on-the-spot investigation, said a ministry official.

Companies in marketing, construction and services will be able to employ foreign workers, as well as small manufacturing firms, which are already allowed them.

Those who have less than 10 permanent employees will also be capable of employing migrant trainees. At present, only companies having more than 10 workers can take foreign laborers.

The maximum ratio of foreign workers to total employees will also be increased from the current 10 percent to expand the opportunities of smaller firms and others who want to employ them.

The ministry is also considering lowering the guarantee money the companies employing foreign trainees must deposit with the Korea Federation of Small Business.

Some 28,000 foreign industrial trainees have been introduced since the nation began accepting them last year. From next month a second group of some 20,000 foreign workers is scheduled to arrive.

Editorials View Inauguration of New Party

SK1208105195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of editorials carried by Seoul vernacular dailies on 12 August on the inauguration of the National Congress for New Politics.

The moderate TONG-A ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "A Meeting To Inaugurate the National Congress for New Politics." Referring to the people's negative view of the inauguration of the National Congress for New Politics [NCNP] on 11 August, and to the declaration adopted by the NCNP indicating that "the new party is being formed because new politics cannot be conducted by the existing opposition parties," the editorial states: "It has adopted a resolution to become the people's party that can represent the rights and interests of ordinary middle class-people."

Referring to the NCNP as a political foundation for Kim Tae-chung's presidential run for 1997, and to his remarks on a talk show that he has no intention of running in the 1997 presidential election if the people do not want him, the editorial states: "This can be interpreted as an indication he will run for the presidency."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "The New Party Should Be Worthy of the New Party." The editorial notes the background of the formation of the NCNP led by Kim Tae-chung, and notes the need to introduce new politicians in the party to remove the concept that the NCNP is Kim Tae-chung's private party, saying: "It is important that the new party should be worthy of the new party. It should develop this style in the future political activities." Referring to the NCNP's decision to conduct politics for middle class and ordinary people, the editorial concludes: "The NCNP should make efforts to be supported and trusted by the people in the future."

Kim Tae-chung To Urge Nuclear Disarmament

SK1608022795 Seoul YONHAP in English 0204 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP) — Kim Tae-chung, an opposition leader now chairing the Committee for Founding the National Congress for New Politics, has decided to send a letter to the heads of the world's five nuclear power nations calling on them to end all nuclear tests and to dismantle all their nuclear weapons.

Kim will also send the same letter to the Secretary-general of the United Nations Butrus Butrus-Ghali and to South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, a close aide to Kim said Wednesday.

In the letter, Kim will insist that the recent declaration made by U.S. President Bill Clinton calling for an end to nuclear tests should lead to a complete abolition of nuclear weapons development and that the five nuclear powers — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — should reach an agreement for a complete abolition of all nuclear arms by a fixed date, the aide explained.

Kim will also demand President Kim Yong-sam directly urge France to cancel an upcoming nuclear test it has scheduled.

Local Governments Computerize Passport Issuances

SK1208050195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0439 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 12 (YONHAP) — The local governments of Taegu and Kwangju cities and North Chungchong and North Cholla Provinces will begin issuing passports Monday [14 August] through computerized networks, according to a Foreign Ministry official Saturday.

Applicants are only required to submit an application form and two photos in order to be issued a passport within about four hours from the time they file their application, he said.

Currently, it takes two to three days for people to receive passports which are issued at places that do not use the computerized network.

Among other local governments equipped with computerized passport issuance systems are the Foreign Ministry and local governments of Pusan, Inchon, North Kyongsang Province, South Cholla Province and Cheju Province.

People Polled on Reform, Reunification Issues

SK1408120595 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 14 Aug 95 pp 4, 5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of liberation, KYONGHYANG SINMUN and the Taeryuk Research Center jointly conducted a survey on "national consciousness," which shows that the ROK people are full of pride and expectations about their country and future. In contrast with the high appraisal of the economy, people still think politics are unsatisfactory. The majority of people assessed the civilian government's reform policies as unsatisfactory. They expect President Kim Yong-sam to show a more firm will on reform. The reunification issue was confirmed to be of utmost concern to the people, however, most of them were doubtful of an early reunification. In the 50 years since liberation, the people's sentiment toward Japan did not change much, although they admit the ROK has to learn from Japan in the economy and technology. [passage omitted]

Assessing the achievements of the series of reform policies implemented since the civilian government's inauguration, 42.1 percent of respondents said that the policies were satisfactory (including 2.4 percent who said they were very satisfactory and 39.7 percent who said they were generally satisfactory), while 57.8 percent said they were unsatisfactory (42.1 percent said they were a little unsatisfactory and 15.7 percent said they were very unsatisfactory).

Asked about their assessment of why reform policies were unsatisfactory, 23.9 percent pointed out the lack of continuity, 16.8 percent the lack of reform in the sense of officialdom, 12.6 percent the prevalent corruption, and 10.4 percent the superficial reform.

Geographically, 70 percent of respondents in the Taejon and Chungchong areas, and 67.1 percent in the Kwangju and South Cholla areas said the civilian government's reform was unsatisfactory.

With regard to the tasks facing the Kim Yong-sam regime, 22.8 percent said the regime should focus on fighting corruption; 9.1 percent named political reform; 8.7 percent chose the reform of consciousness; 8.4 percent named price stabilization; 6.8 percent named the reform of consciousness in officialdom; 6.8 percent named the expansion of social welfare; and 6.7 percent called for the prevention of weak-structured construction. [passage omitted]

The majority of the ROK people still dislike the Japanese people.

Those who generally dislike (39.3 percent) and those who very much dislike (14.5 percent) Japanese totaled 53.8 percent. This is nearly 10 percent higher than last year's poll result of 44.7 percent. The breakdown by age shows that 45.8 to 52.1 percent of ages between 20 to 30, and 61.2 to 64.3 percent of ages over 50 dislike Japanese. [passage omitted]

On future ROK-Japan relations, 52.4 percent preferred to maintain the current level of relations. However, 37.4 percent called for closer relations, giving significance to ROK-Japan relations in the era of internationalization. [passage omitted]

The survey shows that the ROK people are very concerned about the reunification issue, with 87.2 percent of respondents giving positive answers (43.6 percent said they were very concerned and another 43.6 percent said they were a little concerned).

Contrary to the interest, the majority of the respondents were pessimistic about realizing reunification in the next five years.

Sixty-nine percent of respondents believed there is no possibility of reunification in five years (52.8 percent said there was little possibility and 16.5 percent said there was absolutely no possibility). Those on the optimistic side accounted for 30.6 percent. Respondents with college or higher educations and those in their 40's were particularly doubtful of reunification in five years, with a 75.6 and 73.1 percent of negative answers, respectively.

The regional breakdown shows that the Kangwon area had a relatively low percentage (58.3 percent) of negative responses while the Pusan and South Kyongsang areas were the most pessimistic (81.7 percent).

Only 6.9 percent of respondents thought a reunified country was possible before the turn of the century.

With regard to the timing of establishing a reunified country, 41.8 percent said by 2010, 26.7 percent by 2020, and 21.1 percent said after 2020. Thus, three out of four ROK people expect the country to be reunified in 25 years at the latest.

There was no significant difference in the breakdown by region, education, or income.

Asked about the government's policy of promoting economic cooperation with North Korea, a very high percentage—85.1 percent—assessed it as desirable (31.6 percent said it was very desirable and 53.5 percent said it was fairly desirable), reflecting the people's full support for the government policy.

Particularly, 94.4 percent of respondents in Kangwon Province and 98 percent of businessmen and professionals supported North-South economic cooperation. Kangwon Province had high expectations because it is geographically close to North Korea, and businessmen are also proven to be very interested in North-South economic cooperation.

Accordingly, as many as 72 percent of respondents believed North-South economic cooperation should be pursued even at the risk of some economic loss to the ROK. On the other hand, 28 percent said that the ROK's economic interests should be given precedence.

Those supporting economic cooperation at the risk of the ROK's loss were dominant among the younger generation (53.1 in their 60's and 77.6 percent in their 20's supported cooperation), the highly educated (80.2 percent of those with college or higher educations), and businessmen and professionals (90 percent), confirming that they feel North Korea is a member of the national community.

On the speed of economic cooperation, 41.8 percent assessed the current speed as appropriate, while 32 percent wanted a faster speed, urging the government to take a more active position. Those with higher educations (48.8 percent) and businessmen and professionals (44 percent) were also notable for their support for a faster pace in cooperation.

Only 26 percent preferred a slower speed of economic cooperation.

Nine out of 10 respondents believed that North-South economic cooperation will play a positive role in opening up North Korea and realizing an early reunification: 37.9 percent assessed it as very helpful to reunification, and 51.5 percent thought it would be a little helpful. Those who are negative about the contributions of economic cooperation totalled 10.4 percent, including 9.1 percent who deemed it of little help and 1.3 percent who deemed it not helpful at all.

This is interpreted as most people agree that North-South economic cooperation will open up North Korea and virtually lead to reunification.

When asked what is most important to the ROK's security, 40.5 percent pointed out political stability.

This can be interpreted as the current political situation is unstable and people want politicians to exert more effort. Particularly, the younger generation (45 percent of those in their late 20's and 46.9 percent in their 30's), Seoulites (45.1 percent) and urban residents, and those with college or higher educations (44.4 percent) stressed political stability.

Other factors on security were the people's sense of security (28.2 percent), economic wealth (19.7 percent), stronger foreign relations (5.8 percent), and reinforced military strength (5.3 percent). [passage omitted]

SNU Students Polled on Kim Tae-chung, NCNP

SK1208084295 Seoul YONHAP in English
0747 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 12 (YONHAP) — Slightly more than half of the Seoul National University [SNU] students think that the odds are against Kim Tae-chung in the next presidential election, though they see his new party, the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), as the majority party in the new parliament to be elected next year, according to a recent poll.

The poll of 709 students of the university, conducted jointly by the university's General Student Association and the monthly magazine, KIL (Road), earlier in the month, revealed that 58.69 percent of the respondents saw few possibilities of Kim's success in the 1997 presidential election.

But 51.33 percent said they consider Kim's new opposition party will become the majority party of the new National Assembly to be elected next year.

Asked to comment on Kim's NCNP, 71.9 percent said they are against it.

As for the NCNP's effect on South Korea's political development, 51.5 percent saw it as negative and only 9.59 percent said it would be positive.

Asked about the party affiliation of the mayors and governors elected on the Democratic Party's ticket in June, including Seoul Mayor Cho Sun, 28.9 percent were for their affiliation with a new reformist party other than Kim Tae-chung's new party, 22.3 percent for their remaining in the Democratic Party and only 14.95 percent were for their affiliation with Kim's new party.

Asked to cite the biggest problem facing Korean politics, 50.6 percent gave "the boss-centered" political parties, 21.58 percent cited provincialism and 15.38 percent pointed to the people's low interest in politics.

In addition, 71.9 percent were for generational shift in politics and 63.75 percent had a positive view on the creation of a new reformist party based on civic organizations.

KMA Graduates Launch Alumni Organization

SK1408093195 Seoul YONHAP in English
0840 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (YONHAP) — A fraternity comprising all alumni of the Korea Military Academy (KMA) was formally organized last month, 49 years after the academy's inauguration, it was belatedly confirmed Monday.

Kim Chom-kon, president of the Institute of Peace Studies (IPS), was elected the first president of the KMA Alumni Association in an inaugural meeting of 85 representatives from the first through 29th graduating classes of the academy at the National Defense Hall on July 21.

It took 49 years for graduates of the academy, now totaling some 15,000, to inaugurate their fraternity, the organization of which has been averted due to its political delicacy following controversial interference in politics by some politically-oriented alumni.

At the first general meeting of the representatives nine vice presidents were appointed, including Kil Chon-sik, former secretary-general of the Democratic Republican Party (DRP) of the Third Republic, O Chi-song, ex-home minister, and Yi Sang-hun, ex-defense minister, Kim added.

"The launch of the KMA alumni association had been delayed until now because of the people's suspicions about the military," Kim explained. "But, judging that such suspicions have now disappeared, we inaugurated the association as a pure fraternity."

Former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u will also become members of the group, Kim said.

Police Hunt for Activists Linked to North Visit

SK1608032795 Seoul YONHAP in English
0303 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP) — The National Police Administration began searching Wednesday for three student activists who are suspected of having played a key role in a visit two South Korean female students are making to North Korea to participate in a North Korean Liberation Day event that took place at the truce village of Panmunjom Tuesday.

The three suspects, for whom arrest warrants have been issued for alleged violation of the National Security Law, were identified as Chong Tae-hung, 24, chairman of the outlawed Pomchonghangnyon, a National Alliance of Youths and Students for the Country's Unification, Pae Chong-ki, 22, and Yi Won-ku, 24, vice chairman of the alliance.

Chong, a senior majoring in law at Korea University, is chairman of Hanchongnyon, the Korea Federation of University Student Councils, while Pae, a senior at Kyonghee University majoring in mass communications, is Hanchongnyon's organization chairman. Yi, a Hanyang University senior majoring in architecture, is chairman of the Seoul Federation of University Student Councils.

While searching the houses of the three suspects under the authority of search warrants Wednesday morning, the police reportedly seized a total of 21 items including printed matter, pocketbooks, videotapes and training materials.

The three allegedly decided early in July to dispatch South Korean student representatives to a North Korean Liberation Day event, dubbed the great festival for national unification, and recruited Chong Min-chu, 23, a dropout of Inchon University, and Yi Hye-chong, 20, a sophomore at Catholic University, both of whom flew to Pyongyang from Berlin aboard Air France flight 287 on Aug. 10, according the police.

The three students wanted by police allegedly organized the outlawed the fourth-term southern headquarters of the Pomchonghangnyon at Kyongbuk University early last May and communicated with its North Korean counterpart on June 2 from Korea University.

They are also suspected of having masterminded Tuesday's visit by the two female students to Panmunjom, for the purpose of taking part in the Liberation Day events there, and the student clashes with riot police at Yonsinae and Kupabal in northern Seoul.

Makers of Heavy Equipment Eye Japanese Market

SK1508005595 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Aug 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Capitalizing on the strong Japanese yen, Korea's heavy construction equipment makers have set out to invade the Japanese market.

Major makers of heavy-duty equipment, including Daewoo Heavy Industries Ltd., Samsung Heavy Industries Co. and Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., are now busy taking over local sales companies and expanding marketing network in Japan, industry sources said.

Daewoo Heavy Industries Inc., following its acquisition of a small Japanese competitor, has recently segmented Japan into seven major regional markets and set up 30 marketing networks which will be responsible for the supply of equipment and after-sales services, they said.

The Korean company also plans to open parts and components centers in each of the seven regional markets, forming an integrated service system starting from manufacture to sales, parts supply and after-sales service.

Daewoo has sold excavators valued at 650 million yen to Japan and is eyeing to increase its sales to 2 billion yen by the end of this year.

Samsung Heavy [Industries] has activated task forces exclusively responsible for Japanese marketing and set up an information liaison channel linking Seoul headquarters office to its Japan branch with the ultimate goal of rebuilding its Japanese sales network complete with an after-sales service system.

The company has agreed to export 25 heavy equipment items, including excavators, to Japan's Komatsu Co. plus 100 bulldozers and wheeled excavators on the so-called original equipment manufacturing (OEM) basis, according to which the makers sell the finished products with the orderers' labels attached.

Hyundai Heavy [Industries] also received orders for 20 excavators last month from the Japanese heavy equipment makers.

Institutions To Accept Real Estate as Collateral

SK1608040195 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Aug 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beginning Aug. 21, small- and medium-sized companies will be able to receive loans from banks and other financial institutions by offering any kinds of real estate [as collateral].

Presently, financial institutions do not accept as collateral real estate registered under the name of a "third" person, luxurious villas, ships, golf courses and non-business purpose lands for their loans.

At the same time, owners of luxurious entertainment places, inns, golf courses and casinos will be allowed to apply for loans from mutual savings and finance companies.

The total lendings extended by a mutual savings and finance company to a specific business line, however, will be limited to 100 percent of the paid-in capital.

However, they will continue to be banned from receiving loans from banks and other financial institutions, except mutual credit unions, the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MFE) said yesterday.

Announcing a series of measures to extend financial support to small- and medium-sized companies, the ministry said all financial institutions, including banks, investment & finance and leasing companies, may extend loans to smaller companies as a pledge for any kinds of real estate.

But, the eased lending guideline will not be applied to large enterprises, the ministry said.

The ministry has also directed the five banks — Industrial Bank of Korea, Kookmin Bank, DaeDong Bank, DongNam Bank and Peace Bank of Korea — to extend more operational and facility loans to smaller enterprises engaging in retail & wholesale and service industries.

In a related development, the five banks have set the maximum ceiling on loans to smaller companies at 100 million won per company for operational funds and 200 million won for facility funds.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Commentary Rejects Journal's Corruption Charges

BK1508131795 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In what is clearly the continuing barrage of attacks on Malaysia, further news reports have emerged in accusing the country of corruption. This time the FORTUNE magazine has alleged that certain Asian countries were giving American firms a nightmarish [word indistinct] because of corruption. The report, among other things, claimed American businessmen had to pay off officials to ensure that their projects took off. These accusations have surfaced without any proof whatsoever. The American-based FORTUNE magazine has put Malaysia sixth in terms of corruption after China, India, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines. How the report arrived at such a conclusion is anybody's guess.

Once again, Western hypocrisy is clearly at work here. Westerners should stop pointing their accusing finger at Asians when they themselves are worse off. It is time they look at themselves before chastising others. Their attitude is as if corruption is alien to Western culture. It smacks of arrogance. If the Western media is bent on looking at alleged corruption in Asia, why is it that they are not looking at corruption in America or Europe? Are the Westerners so superior that they are free of corruption; that is, what gives them the right to judge others? This is nothing more than the misguided notion that Westerners are superior than others. This has led to the constant labelling of Asian countries as corrupt.

Over the years, Western countries have become increasingly critical of Asian countries. This is because the economies of Asian nations have grown so much to the extent to competing with economies of developed countries. Fearing competition in the international marketplace, developed countries are doing everything possible to make things difficult for Asian nations, including making them out to be villains. Their accusations get louder, especially for countries like Malaysia, which have for long defied American supremacy and have not complied with their ideas. Even now Malaysia has to grapple with human and labor rights and the environment and pressure linking them to trade.

Western countries are jealous of the success Malaysia has achieved. When Malaysia was reeling from the effects of the recession, it had to pick itself up to reverse its economic posture. This included some very painful belt-tightening measures. Eventually, Malaysia graduated from being dependent on primary commodities to making the manufacturing sector the catalyst for the nation's economic growth. This, coupled with its fine management policies and political stability, attracted numerous foreign investments.

Yet instead of highlighting its economic success, the FORTUNE had chosen to make false accusations against Malaysia. A better stance would be for the West to admit and rectify its own weaknesses rather than always trying to put the blame on others who had made it through sheer perseverance.

Cabinet Approves Hydroelectric Project

BK1508070595 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 15 Aug 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur — The Cabinet has made the decision to proceed with the Bakun hydroelectric project, Energy, Telecommunications and Post Minister Datuk Leo Moggie told the Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives].

He said the decision was based on several local studies and the World Bank which confirmed the project was economically and technically viable.

"The government's decision was not based on a feasibility study submitted by Ekran Berhad [company].

"In fact the Government itself studied all the reports on Bakun, including that from the independent consultants, and is satisfied that the project is feasible and will bring economic benefits to the country," he added.

Moggie said the Government had also studied the use of alternative energy sources before deciding on hydroelectric power.

"And in line with the privatisation policy, a private consortium, headed by Ekran Berhad, was appointed to carry out the project.

"Nevertheless, the Government will continue to watch over the project until its completion," he added.

Moggie said he was making the statement under Standing Orders 14 (1)(i) to clarify to the Dewan the government's decision to proceed with the Bakun project in light of the recent attention.

During his speech, Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang stood up twice seeking clarification but the minister refused to give way, saying Lim had other avenues to express his views.

Moggie, who spoke for half an hour, said that the Bakun project appeared to be the cheapest in terms of cost for the development of electric power.

He said the project was justified as the demand for electricity was expected to rise from 6,276MW [megawatt] this year to 10,448MW by year 2000 and hitting 16,389MW in year 2005.

"In accordance with the four-fuel policy, the Government intends to reduce dependence on gas and oil as prime fuel sources for the generation of electricity.

"Currently, gas produces 59.6 per cent (of energy), with coal, oil and hydro producing 8.2 per cent, 15.3 per cent and 16.9 per cent respectively.

"By using hydro power generation, the energy mix will be more balanced.

"If the Bakun project is delayed, the cost of the project is expected to rise.

"Based on the study, the optimum time for completing the project is the year 2003 — so efforts to implement it must commence now," he said.

Moggie said the Government received positive feedback from the affected residents.

Cambodia

Asian Development Bank Approves New Loans

BK1608085295 Phnom Penh REAKSMẸI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 16 Aug 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Bong Su Lee, vice chairman of the Asian Development Bank, ADB, said that the ADB has decided to allow the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] to borrow $85 million for 1996 and $70 million for 1997 to rehabilitate and develop Cambodia.

Bong Su Lee said this at a meeting with Keat Chhon, state minister, minister of economy and finance, and vice chairman of the Cambodian Development Council [CDC] at the CDC office on the morning of 14 August.

At this meeting the two sides focused on the principles for implementing all the agreements pertaining to the loans granted by the ADB for 1996 and 1997.

It should be stressed that the ADB recently allowed Cambodia to borrow $100 [as published] with a low interest.

According to past statements by the RGC, the successive loans from the ADB are for rehabilitating and developing four main sectors in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The first sector is the development of human resources; the second, the construction of various national infrastructures such as roads and bridges; the third, the rehabilitation and development of agriculture nationwide; and the fourth, the rehabilitation and development of the airport in Siem Reap, and modernizing it in accordance with international standards.

The talks also focused on the procedures and ways to grant loans and to repay them to the ADB; the low interest to be charged; and the length of the repayment period.

Phnom Penh Renews Assault on KR Stronghold

BK1608073995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Aug 95 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Aranyaprathet, Sakaeo — Cambodian troops renewed their assault on the Khmer Rouge [KR] by heavily shelling their stronghold along Khla Ngoap, about 15 kilometres southeast of Aranyaprathet District, border officials said yesterday.

The fighting started at about 8.30 a.m. when Cambodian soldiers, whose base is at Ban Pho Samton [Phou Bei Daem] on Kilometre 6 of Route 5, began firing 122-mm artillery shells at the guerrilla-controlled base at Khla Ngoap or Ban Seutai, opposite Thailand's Ban Saen Suk.

During the fighting, two artillery shells reportedly landed on Thai territory at Ban Saen Suk in Tambon Khlong Mi, slightly damaging a house belonging to Buntham Khankham, 55, a villager.

The assault has prompted the Aranyaprathet Task Force to alert officials at the Thai-Cambodian Coordination Office, asking them to warn the Cambodian soldiers to stop fighting or face retaliation by Thai forces.

The fighting ended at about 9.30 a.m, the source said.

Earlier last month, Cambodian troops had tried to capture the guerrilla's strategic post along Khla Ngoap, but failed to do so.

Ranariddh Urges Khmer Rouge To Return

BK1508130795 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 14-15 Aug 95 p

[Report by Dararit]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, said: The Khmer Rouge group continues to remain stubborn, refusing to implement the national reconciliation policy initiated by the Cambodian king, who has appealed to all Cambodians to reunite.

The prince added: All of the Khmer Rouge members — except Ta Mok, Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, and Khieu Samphan, who are chief assassins massively killing the Cambodian people — should return to the national society in keeping with the national reconciliation initiative of our king. They have the right to set up a new political party to participate with others in the 1998 general elections. Nevertheless, owing to our Cambodian nation's tragic fate, the Khmer Rouge has not only refused to abide by the king's initiative, but has also furthered violent activities to ruin its own national community under the pretext of fighting the Vietnamese. Its actions have been aimed at only destroying the government's achievements, killing the people, and burning the latter's houses, ricefields, and orchards without ceasing. The Khmer Rouge has caused the people, who have already faced hardship, to suffer even more intensely. This is really very painful.

Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh made this statement to the people in Phnom Penh's Meanchey ward while presiding at the inauguration of a meeting hall at the Yuos Sovanaram Srei Sras monastery on the morning of 12 August 1995. [passage omitted]

The prince added: As he is a faithful follower of Buddhism, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, the king of Cambodia, has always called for national reconciliation and national unification. Since the general elections, with the concord of the three major parties, we have been able to maintain peace and political stability and to develop part of the country as well. All in all, despite the Khmer Rouge's implacable intransigence, the government hopes it will dissolve itself eventually. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

Alatas Welcomes Clinton Position on Test Ban

BK1608092795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0553 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, Aug 15 (AFP) — The Indonesian Government welcomed US President Bill Clinton's support for a complete nuclear test ban, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Tuesday.

"I happily welcome it. At last, there is a firm attitude from President Clinton and this will undoubtedly lead to a complete end to nuclear testings," Alatas told journalists at the Merdeka palace after meeting President Suharto.

He said he hoped a complete ban would materialize from negotiations on the treaty in Geneva which should be concluded next year.

Clinton Friday announced that the United states backed "a true zero yield" test ban, dropping its previous insistence that it should be allowed to conduct small laboratory nuclear weapons experiments.

Alatas also said that during a meeting of foreign ministers of the seven-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) with their main western dialogue partners, France has been clearly told of the grouping's views of Paris's plan to carry out nuclear tests in Mururoa Atoll.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore Thailand and Vietnam, and France is one of the group's main dialogue partners.

"They (France) already obtained a quite clear impression on our view, or that of ASEAN," he said.

Alatas Welcomes Murayama's Public Apology

BK1608030295 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking to reporters in Jakarta yesterday, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Indonesia welcomes Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's public apology for the Japanese forces' brutalities in the Pacific War. On behalf of the Japanese Government, Murayama yesterday delivered a speech to mark the end of the Pacific War during which he publicly expressed his regret and apology for what Japan had done to countries in North Asia.

Alatas said Indonesia, which also suffered under the Japanese occupation from 1942 to 1945, has never demanded an apology from that country. Indonesia believes the issue is over after talks on war compensations were concluded.

Editorial on 'Critical Period' of AFTA Launch

BK1508100195 Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian 15 Aug 95 p 5

[Editorial: "The Critical Take-Off Stage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) will commence in the year 2003. The APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] free trade, which was agreed upon by the Asia-Pacific economic leaders at the second AELM [Asia-Pacific Economic Leaders Meeting] held in Bogor in November 1994, will begin simultaneously in the year 2003 for the developed nations and in the year 2010 for the developing nations.

A short period of eight years is left before the year 2003. As proposed by Brunei Darussalam at the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting held recently, ASEAN members agreed that the implementation of the AFTA be hastened and implemented by the year 2000 — which thus leaves only five years to make all the necessary preparations before facing AFTA. As such, irrespective of whether there are eight or five years left before facing the implementation, such a period of time is considered inadequate for any country to embark on development measures.

Therefore, the statement issued by President Suharto on Saturday [12 August] at the opening of the Indonesian Products Exhibition is deemed appropriate. According to President Suharto, the take-off stage is the most critical period for Indonesia. The head of state said: "If the take-off stage is smoothly carried out, then Indonesia will become a progressive and prosperous nation. But, on the other hand, if the take-off stage proves to be a failure, then Indonesia will be hit with backwardness."

The president also gave a reminder that there was a need for industrial products to be competitive in international and domestic markets. In this respect, he said the cheap labor market no longer exists in the era of industrial predominance. As such, Indonesia needs to speed up its industrial development with a skilled labor force while the industries need to be competitive. The head of state said: "It is imperative that we establish highly competitive and powerful industries amid an ever open and competitive world."

It has now been 12 years since we embarked on deregulation and debureaucratization processes — starting with the deregulation of the banking sector in 1983 — aimed at upgrading national efficiency and competitiveness, although we are not the only one making efforts to upgrade national efficiency and competitiveness. Notwithstanding, we have made numerous achievements. But there seems to be no end to the competition to improve efficiency and competitiveness. In addition, as time passes, such competition will become stiffer due to the dependence on qualitative human resources, education, and technology.

Therefore, cheap labor no longer becomes the foremost factor. In terms of political terminology, cheap labor is basically the exploitation of workers by employers.

The current question deals with how such a problem can be completely solved in facing future problems. Can this be achieved through only upgrading efficiency, competitiveness, and human resources with technological quality? Theoretically speaking, such an issue is not very difficult to solve. But this is not so when such a problem needs to be dealt with in a practical manner.

As such, in celebrating the 50th national day, it would be pertinent if time were profitably used toward accounting for all our efforts undertaken in upgrading efficiency and competitiveness and improving the quality of human resources as well as the acquisition of technology.

If such an endeavor were clearly accepted in an objective manner, then it could be considered that we are on the right track and we will only be left with the task of hastening such a process. If not, then we need to make an overall appropriation of what needs to be remedied in a more rational, calm, open, and credible manner.

Government To Protect 26 Items From AFTA

BK1508075995 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 5 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta (JP) — Dozens of agricultural products need protection prior to the full implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, Minister of Agriculture Syarifudin Baharsyah said yesterday.

Syarifudin said that 26 agricultural commodities are vulnerable to foreign competition and therefore need to be excluded from the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme.

"The 26 agricultural commodities are grown mainly by small-holders, and we will not open the domestic market to imports in order to protect the interests of the farmers," Sharifudin said.

The 26 commodities, he added, include rice, sugar milk and fruit.

He said ASEAN agriculture ministers would meet between August 21 and 23 in Singapore to further discuss which agricultural commodities the CEPT tariff reduction scheme would cover.

Under the scheme, ASEAN members are required to reduce tariffs to a maximum of five percent by January 2003.

However, the Sultan of Brunei, Hassanal Bolkiah, suggested at the 28th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan early this week that the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) be accelerated by three years to the year 2000.

"Although we have a list of what we call 26 sensitive agricultural commodities it doesn't mean that we are not ready for AFTA... Compared to other ASEAN countries, our list is the shortest one," Sharifudin was quoted by ANTARA as saying.

Outside the 26 commodities, however, the minister acknowledged that Indonesia has included some other agricultural products in the CEPT scheme.

The CEPT was kicked off on January 1, last year, and has two programs for reducing tariffs, the so-called "normal track" and "fast track" programs.

Most items are on the normal track only a few are in the fast track including cement, fertilizer, pulp, textiles, jewelry and precious stones, furniture from wood and rattan, leather goods, plastics, pharmaceuticals, electronics, chemicals rubber products, vegetable oil, ceramics and glass, as well as copper cathode.

The government and businesses have had mixed reactions to the proposal to accelerate AFTA.

Minister of Trade Satrio B. Judono expressed his optimism on Indonesia's readiness for the acceleration of AFTA. Meanwhile, Minister of Industry Tunky Ariwibowo took a more cautious view, saying that Indonesia has a very different industrial structure than Brunei.

Coordinating Minister for Industry and Trade Hartarto noted that, comparing Indonesia's trade balance with other ASEAN countries, Indonesia is actually ready to accept the acceleration of AFTA.

Indonesia's trade balance with ASEAN countries recorded a surplus of U.S.$2.47 billion last year, with exports valued at $5.2 billion and imports at $2.73 billion.

Sudwikatmono, a senior executive at the powerful Salim Group, said big companies would be ready whenever Indonesia accepted an accelerated AFTA.

"We should not worry about the idea of free trade in ASEAN. We have prepared ourselves to enter the ASEAN market" Sudwikatmono told journalists at Cikarang in Bekasi, West Java.

Economist Rizal Ramli, from the Econit research institute noted yesterday that the acceleration of AFTA is good for Indonesia in the long run. "However, in the short term, Indonesia has to bear the economic adjustment costs if it accepts AFTA ahead of the original schedule.

Muslim Party on 'Oppressive' Political Climate

BK1508075795 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 14 Aug 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, KOMPAS — Sociopolitical life marked by "patronage" and "protection" has created an oppressive political climate because one group is allowed to excessively dominate every sector and political parties have to struggle hard to maintain their existence.

This was stated by the Central Executive Council of the United Development Party [PPP] in Jakarta on Monday (14 August) on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia. The statement entitled "Toward a Just Indonesia" was read by Usamah Hasyim. In the statement, the PPP notes many discriminatory practices that have created an impression of the existence of first-, second-, and third-class citizens.

The PPP says hard work is needed to achieve political democratization. The party sees the need to revise Law on Political Parties, including the abolition of floating parties, the neutrality of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia in general elections, and the enhancement of the quality of the House of Representatives.

Under the existing political situation, some organizations depend on or are protected by the state for their survival, although the 1945 Constitution ensures equal opportunities for every citizen to enjoy the rights of assembly and union and to fill public posts.

"Is the current situation what the founding fathers of the republic expected 50 years ago?" The question was posed by the PPP Central Executive Council in a news conference attended by Ismail Hasan Metareum, general chairman of the PPP Central Executive Council, and members of the PPP Central Executive Council — Aisyah Aminy, Tosari Wijaya, Syaeful Anwar Husein, Yusuf Syakir, and Ali Marwan Hanan.

The PPP also focuses on the "curbing" of the freedom of expression such as the banning of art works, procedures in acquiring permits, and various forms of control. On the other hand, a certain group is allowed to conduct various activities too freely. According to the PPP, there has been a strong impression about the existence of discriminatory policies. Sociocultural justice still needs serious attention and handling.

Frequently Losing

The party, which is symbolized by a star, also focuses on various forms of structural, sectoral, and partial gaps. Land and labor disputes and environment pollution cases have frequently been ignored and poor people have frequently lost in these cases. The people's interests have been further marginalized or ignored as a result of monopolies and oligopolies.

According to the PPP, the monopolies and oligopolies are strongly visible in regulations governing the trade of cement, cloves, flour, and other commodities. The PPP sees the urgency for an antimonopoly law, a bill on the protection of small industries, a bill on the protection of consumers, and various policies supportive of the people's economy.

Meanwhile, the PPP says corruption and collusion cases that have been revealed in the mass media are just the tip of the iceberg. The situation has reflected a serious lack of national discipline, including in the budgetary sector.

Answering questions from reporters on the possibility of the PPP exercising the right of inquiry in the House of Representatives, Ismail Hasan Metareum stated the right of inquiry could not be exercised yet because the current law on the right of inquiry is no longer relevant with the 1945 Constitution.

ABRI's View of Monopolies Reported

95SE0167C Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
11 Jul 95 pp 1, 10

[FBIS Translated Text] Bandung, 10 July—Gen R. Hartono, Army chief of staff, has said that ABRI will fight to support the draft regulation against monopolies, if this matter affects the interests of the community as a whole.

In answer to questions from reporters after attending the first lustrum and graduation ceremony of Jenderal Achmad Yani University (Unjani) in Bandung on 10 July the Army chief of staff said: "However, monopolies should not be defined in an extreme sense, because there are also monopolies, which are needed and which do not involve the mass of the people. However, if you are talking about monopolies, which injure the economic life of the country, then ABRI, which also includes ABRI members of Parliament, will not tolerate such practices."

Monopolies do not only affect a few people but 150 million people. The Army chief of staff said: "Now, that is one meaning, but there is no definite meaning in my mind."

He said that the object of all of this is to improve the quality of living or the quality of the economy of our country. However, do not make the mistake that this means a monopoly.

General Hartono asked in return: "For example, one meaning is that a monopoly affects humanity which has been just for centuries. But if the terms 'just' and 'for centuries' only affect me as a person and not 150 million people, what then? That meaning was not my intention."

General Hartono continued: "In short, whatever interest, which affects the bulk of the people or the Indonesian nation as a group is a term which will be anticipated and considered by ABRI members of Parliament."

However, he added that, in essence the ABRI members of Parliament will continue to study the development of monopolies in Indonesia. This research must be carried out in cooperation with all groups concerned about the interests of this country.

The Army chief of staff asked that in defining the word monopoly we should all start with the interests of the people and the state. The term "monopoly" cannot be defined in greater detail. Rather, we must consider the question further. Do not define the control of a person as being the same thing as a monopoly, because this does not provide an opportunity to other people, he said.

The four star general said: "If a person is given an opportunity and later on the value of this opportunity declines and the country loses, what happens then? However, I think that, basically, a monopoly, which damages the interests of the country and the nation generally is something, which will not receive the support of everyone.

Asked about the question raised by the PDI [Indonesian Democracy Party] faction in Parliament concerning the antimonopoly law, which at the present time is still waiting for the support of other factions in Parliament, the Army chief of staff invited those who wished to support the matter to pursue it further.

General Hartono said: "If there are those who want to support the draft regulation against monopolies, let them do so. However, that decision depends on all of the members of Parliament."

Meanwhile, Aberson M. Sihaloho, a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Executive Council of the PDI, stated that the Research and Development Section of the Central Executive Council of the PDI has completed drafting an anti monopoly regulation which is being prepared for discussion in Parliament.

However, the PDI faction in Parliament, which is an extension of the Central Executive Council of the PDI, is still having difficulty finding supporters for the proposal from other factions. Aberson said: "This is because it is in conflict with the regulation that the minimum requirement for presenting a proposal is the support of two factions in Parliament."

Strategic Industries, Military Ties Examined

95SE0167B Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
12 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, KOMPAS—Dr B. J. Habibie, chief of the Strategic Industries Management Board [BPIS], has stated that the relationship between the BPIS and the Indonesian Armed Forces [ABRI] has never been a problem because there is no reason why it should become a problem.

This was stated on 10 July by Habibie in answer to questions from members of Parliament in testimony before Committee I of Parliament. Habibie said that the relationship between the BPIS and ABRI has never been a problem. On the contrary, in the case of several companies, which come under the BPIS the chairman of their boards of directors is the Army chief of staff.

Habibie said: "However, there is no regulation that the chairman of the board of directors of PT Pindad shall be the Army chief of staff, that the chairman of the board of directors of PT PAL shall be the Navy chief of staff, or that the chairman of the board of directors of PT Dahana shall be the secretary general of the Department of Defense and Security."

Furthermore, Habibie also stated that the meaning of strategic industry does not only mean strategic in the military sense but particularly strategic in the economic sense. Habibie said: "To manufacture products of superior quality, you need not only technology but also economic capacity. For that reason products of superior quality are manufactured by BPIS."

Habibie asked the question: "Why has the IPTN [Nusantara Aircraft Industry Corporation] never begun to produce combat or training aircraft?" He answered: "The reason is that other countries, such as Taiwan, Korea, and China, produce combat and training aircraft. Now they are no longer developing countries. We are different. We are just starting."

According to Habibie, it is not possible for the BPIS to produce only for ABRI needs, because the market is very small. He stated that all orders from ABRI have been met on time but not all have been paid for. Habibie said: "If the product as a whole is a military responsibility, this situation cannot continue, because the market is small."

Holding Company

A member of Parliament asked Habibie why BUMNIS (State Owned Strategic Industrial Enterprise Board) is still losing money. Habibie answered: "If the strategic industries are considered as a whole, they are making a profit. If you look at them one by one, there are those which are making large profits, and there are those which are not making much of a profit. There are those which are losing a great deal of money, and there are those which are marginal." He did not say how large is the overall profit of the strategic industries.

He said that at present a draft regulation is being prepared to provide that BUMNIS will be converted into a kind of "holding company." According to Habibie, in a few months this regulation will be ready for issuance. After this regulation is issued, BUMNIS can be regarded as a business enterprise in which some units which make a profit can cover the losses of those units which lose money. A company which loses money can be salvaged. Habibie also has asked President Suharto to use 40 percent of the profits of BUMNIS to finance research, with 40 percent returning to the government. To clarify this point further, Habibie said: "For the time being earmarking five percent of the profits for the company cooperative can be postponed."

There are 10 companies in the BPIS: PT Industri Pesawat Terbang Nusantara [Nusantara Aircraft Industry Corporation], PT PAL [Naval Base Company], PT Pindad [Army Industry Company], PT Dahana [Defense Industrial Company], PT Krakatau Steel [Krakatau Steel Company], PT Boma Bisma Indra, PT Barata Indonesia, PT INKA, PT Inti, and PT Len Industri [National Electronics Industry].

Aircraft Test Flight

Habibie also reported on preparations for the first flight of the N250 aircraft, the "Gatotkaca," which is planned to take place on 10 August. At present it is still undergoing "ground tests." According to present plans, if the weather is good, this first flight will be witnessed by President Suharto.

Habibie said: "According to reports up to 10 July, the vibration tests have been completed. Static pressure tests on the wings up to a 40 percent load have been OK. This week the load will be increased to 60 percent, until the wings break. In fact, tests up to 40 percent are enough." Tests of the backup electricity generators on the two wings have already been performed. Habibie stated: "The 'Gatotkaca' project is alive and well. This week it will have begun to move. This baby will walk first before it flies."

In another portion of his testimony he answered a question from a member of Committee I of Parliament. Habibie stated that planning for a bridge from Java to Madura is continuing. Habibie said: "The construction of the Madura bridge will be undertaken, but now it has met some problems."

According to Habibie, the concept for the construction of the Madura bridge is the right one. With a bridge from Surabaya to the island of Madura industries can be relocated to Madura, a relatively undeveloped area that will balance the industry rich area south of Surabaya.

Habibie said: "So there is no reason for people to say that they are afraid of the negative impact of the opening of 'night clubs' and all of that."

Laos

Unexploded Ordnance Still Plagues Countryside

Minister Thongloun Sisoulit Comments

95SE0158A Vientiane PASASON in Lao 17 Jun 95 p 3

[Article by Thongloun Sisoulit]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. In the War for National Salvation, which lasted many decades, it was observed that the nine year period from 1964 to 1973 was the period of the heaviest bombing of Laos from the air.

Military analysts have indicated that in this nine year period there were 580,300 bombing sorties over Laos, which was an average of one sortie every eight minutes. There were more than two tons of explosives per person dropped on a country with a population of 3 million during that period. The provinces that received the most destruction were: Xieng Khouang Province, Houa Phan Province, Khammouan Province, Savannakhet Province, Luang Prabang Province, Sekong Province and Champassak Province — of these Xieng Khouang Province received the most destruction.

The 6 million tons of explosives mentioned included a great deal of ordnance, which did not explode and is still scattered about in the areas mentioned above. We have not been able to make an accurate estimate of their numbers.

2. Since the end of the war and the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] more than 20 years ago, the government has poured all its strength and resources into taking care of the wounds of war. Now in general the Lao people can make a living in peace and take part in developing the economy and society. Nevertheless the harmful effects of the war in general and unexploded ordnance in particular still threaten people's lives and restrain the people's agricultural production. For example in the past 20 years in just three districts in Xieng Khouang Province 973 people were hurt by unexploded bombs which detonated. Of these 451 died.

3. Starting in 1975 with the help of the former Soviet Union and a number of international organizations, the government of the LPDR worked hard to retrieve the various kinds of ordnance and has destroyed hundreds of tons.

Now the MCC [Menonite Central Committee], MAG [expansion unknown] organization from England, the Milsearch organization from Australia and the Quaker organization are continuing to retrieve unexploded ordnance in Pek District of Xieng Khouang Province and Nam Bak District of Luang Prabang Province. This project, which is currently underway is felt to be achieving good results and will be able to expand.

In any case there is a great deal of ordnance of many types still in Lao earth. Of this the most dangerous type and the type that hinders the livelihoods of the people the most are the "bombis". Bombs continue to kill the Lao people in those provinces, which suffered destruction for so long in the past. Reports from Xieng Khouang Province indicate that in Xieng Khouang Province alone about 100,000 hectares are covered with ordnance and need to be urgently inspected. In addition there are many provinces for which surveys need to be made and statistics recorded.

4. To take care of the above problem the government of the LPDR conducted a study together with the UN development organization. They saw the need to set up a fund, which would attract the interest of friendly governments, international organizations and financial institutions. The fund would be used to survey the areas from which ordnance needed to be retrieved and then to retrieve the ordnance.

5. In my estimation retrieving this ordnance from the ground, which is necessary for production and for developing the economy, will require decades and a great deal of capital. Therefore in order that this work proceed conveniently according to our goals, the government of the LPDR has proposed that the UN organization for development cooperate with the Lao government as the center of an effort to perform research, to seek funds and to study the feasibility of using international organizations to conduct the programs for retrieving the ordnance in various places in Laos. The UN organization for development and the Lao Government will control the funds, which are urgently needed.

The government of the LPDR has requested friendly countries, international organizations, organizations unaffiliated with foreign governments, financial organizations and people of all religions to take part in raising these funds.

'Bombi' Problems in Phon Savan

95SE0158B Vientiane PASASON in Lao 16 Jun 95 p 3

[Article by Outhin Boun-gnavong: "This Inheritance Is Dangerous"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is about 12 km from Phon Savan to Ban Nanou Village. Near that village at the beginning of this month we parked our vehicle beside a dirt road because we saw a marker. It was a long, thin strip of white and yellow fluttering in the wind from the top of a wooden stake about an arm's length long, which was driven in the ground. This marker indicated there were bombs. Before we had walked 10 paces from the edge of the road, we saw a bomb part of which was sticking up out of the ground. It was rusted and so blended with the red earth there. If one did not look carefully, it looked like an ordinary rock sticking out of the earth. For this reason the people passing by did not see the danger there. It was a type 63 bomb that Mr Khamphou, from Nanou, had seen and reported to the Xieng Khouang Province unit for retrieving ordnance to retrieve or destroy later. Lying next to it were two M-19 artillery shells, which the local people called "louk satak". People had seen these shells in the surrounding area, retrieved them and put them in this area before we came. About 50 meters away there was another bomb about half of which was visible above the ground. According to the rules it was forbidden to touch or move bombs even though they were rusted or had been buried in the ground for 20 years because they were still able to kill people and animals.

When he learned that the ordnance retrieval unit had arrived, Mr Se, a farmer, came up and said that he had seen ordnance next to an irrigation ditch when he crossed the ditch while bringing water into his ricefield. We walked about 400 meters to the place where the ordnance was. It was a mortar shell which still had its tail end indicating that the screw had stuck. A short distance away there was another shell lying wet in the irrigation ditch with water running over it as it flowed to the fields. Acting as an observer of the ordnance retrieval unit, I tried to read the information on it. This was in English so I knew that it was a product of the neocolonialists.

On the left side of the road was a hill covered just with grass as far as the eye could see. This beautiful view made those seeing it want to take a walk or picnic there, but it was dangerous everywhere. There were still bombs everywhere there. Even though these had been retrieved once from the area at the foot of this hill, nevertheless the villagers who tended cattle and buffalo there or were walking to their fields had found more and had reported this to the ordnance retrieval unit. In this area there were markers in 12 locations showing where there were 12 bombs waiting for destruction. Otherwise they could hurt people or animals or even kill them.

The bombs and ordnance of various kinds still lying everywhere in the ground of Xieng Khouang were the remains of the war, which everyone thought had ended 20 years ago. But for the people of this area the war's danger was still present and still threatened their lives. This was not just true for Xieng Khouang alone, the bombs and ordnance of various kinds still remain everywhere throughout Laos from the North to the South. It is well known that during this war the neocolonialist aircraft made more than 500,000 sorties to pour bombs on Laos in the period from 1964 to 1973. Xieng Khouang Province alone had 300,000 tons of bombs dropped on it or an average of two tons for every person. Among these bombs there was a type, which was called an anti-personnel bomb. It is estimated that 10 to 30 percent of these bombs did not explode when they hit the ground and so continue to pose a danger today. Therefore the government had a project to retrieve ordnance in 1994. An assistance organization, the Mennonites (MCC) [Mennonite Central Committee] worked with experts of an advisory group on ordnance (MAG). Their office was located in Phon Savan.

But there were countless bombs. The local people had heard so many reports of bombs exploding under people that they were used to it. But in becoming used to it, their unhappiness grew until it brought tears. Their unhappiness has been continuous since the beginning of the war and for the more than 20 years since the end of the war.

There was the incident involving the family of Mr Tham who lived at Ban Na O Village. On 25 November 1993 a bomb exploded as Mr Tham was working a rice field and he died. This left his wife, Mrs Sida, and his four children. Not even one year later Mrs Sida, his widow, met a similar fate. On 10 June 1994 she went to remove grass along the ricefield dike and a bomb exploded. She was killed instantly leaving her four children as orphans. The oldest was eight, and the youngest was two. Now the four children have been divided up by brothers and sisters and are being raised each in a different place.

Mrs Chanthali is fully-grown. She used to work in the ricefields and to help her father and mother all the time. But she cannot do that any more; she is blind as a result of a bomb exploding as she was digging in a rice field. Chanthali's younger sister died at the same time because a bomb fragment hit her in the chest. This incident happened in July 1993.

Grandmother Khammeuang, a resident of Ban Nong Pet Village, lost her oldest daughter as a result of bombs during the war, and she felt very bad. But even after the war had been over for 20 years she lost another daughter because of a bomb exploding as she was digging in a ricefield. She was pregnant when she died. How could one find words to match the unhappiness of Grandmother Khammeuang? Her pain was more than could be described by words.

In addition to working adults small children were also hurt by bombs and at an alarmingly high rate. The statistics from one district in Xieng Khouang indicated that they comprised 44 percent of the victims compared to 7 percent in Cambodia. This showed that many Lao children, who were the future of the nation, were dying and being disabled. This was the case because there were bombs everywhere in the surroundings and in the meadows where the cattle and buffalo were tended. When children saw them, they would pick them up to look at or to play with like baloons, throwing back and forth until they exploded. Some schools cleared their grounds. Students had used shovels to get at bombs buried in the ground and had caused explosions such as the one which exploded at the school in Ban In Peng (formerly called Khang That) Village in 1994.

If the word, inheritance, means something left over from the past, then the bombs and various kinds of ordnance left from the war of the neocolonialist invasion might be called an inheritance, but it is a dangerous inheritance or a poisonous inheritance.

Philippines

Further Reportage on Spratly Islands Dispute

Manila To Meet Other Claimants

BK1608085595 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 14 Aug 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Philippines will hold bilateral talks with three other claimant countries on the South China Sea to thresh out peaceful solutions to the sovereignty issue, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino said.

"At some point in time we might also hold some discussions with the other claimants," Mr. Severino said on the Department of Foreign Affairs' plan to hold consultations with Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei in the future over the sovereignty question in the disputed Spratly Islands.

Manila recently concluded its two-day talks with Beijing to "narrow" their differences over the Mischief Reef incident involving Chinese military structures built on a Philippines-claimed portion.

A high-ranking foreign affairs official said, however, that the government has no plans of dealing with Taiwan, one of the countries laying claim to the disputed islands, because of Manila's One-China policy.

"I think it's better if we just stick to the other claimants. Otherwise, dealing with Taiwan would only complicate matters because of our One-China policy. We do not recognize it (Taiwan) as a sovereign state," the official said, requesting anonymity.

The Spratlys, one of the region's potential flashpoints, are believed to sit atop large reserves of oil and gas. They are being claimed wholly by China, Vietnam, and Taiwan and in part by the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei. Except for Brunei, all claimants have stationed military troops in the area.

Mr. Severino said the recently agreed code of conduct that would govern the actions of both Manila and Beijing will be presented to the other claimants. The two laid the principles for a code of conduct in the area pending the resolution of the dispute.

Both parties agreed not to allow territorial disputes between them to affect the normal development of their bilateral relations; undertake confidence-building measures to promote trust between the two; enhance an atmosphere of peace and stability in the region and refrain from using force or threat of force to resolve disputes; settle bilateral disputes in accordance with recognized international law such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; participate in joint development endeavors; and refrain from hampering freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] officials said bilateral consultations with Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei, all fellow members in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), would create an atmosphere of trust and confidence between the Philippines and the other claimant states.

"It's a gradual process where we hope to address the issue of sovereignty in a peaceful manner," one official said.

Manila, Beijing Vow Peace

BK1608100995 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 12 Aug 95 pp 1, 11

[Report by Martin Marfil and Gerry Lirio]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Chinese President Jiang Zemin personally assured President Ramos that the People's Republic of China is determined to settle peacefully its present "misunderstanding" with the Philippines over the Spratlys issue.

President Jiang's assurance was contained in a letter handed to Mr. Ramos by Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Wang Yingfan.

China and the Philippines yesterday ended three days of talks on their dispute over the supposedly oil-rich islands with an agreement to "hold further consultations."

In their meeting in Malacanang yesterday morning, the president told Wang, head of the Chinese panel in the dialogue, that he was "encouraged by the fact that the situation now is much better than it was six months ago," Foreign Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino said.

Mr. Ramos also reiterated his invitation for President Jiang and Premier Li Peng to visit the country.

"Exchanges at the highest levels will promote better understanding between our two countries," he told Wang.

During the three-day talks, China offered the use of its controversial facilities in Mischief Reef, one of the areas in the Spratlys claimed by the Philippines.

China made the offer in support of its position that the structures, suspected to be part of Beijing's plan to establish military bases on the islands, were intended as "wind shelters" for fishermen.

But Severino said: "I pointed out that in the past, Filipino fishermen used to seek shelter in Mischief Reef without having to seek permission from anyone."

Manila and Beijing have agreed to explore the possibility of allowing Filipino and Chinese fishermen to sail through the disputed territories.

In a joint statement, both sides said they hope to come out with a "fisheries cooperation" agreement when they meet again next time.

The two panels failed to settle their conflicting claims, but agreed on a code of conduct to govern their behavior in the pursuit of their claims.

The set of principles includes one that called for the resolution of disputes "without prejudice to the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea."

Filipino and Chinese officials considered both the agreement on a code of conduct and the plan for joint fisheries cooperation a breakthrough in their efforts "to narrow down their differences."

Reduction of Forces

Foreign Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino said the code may eventually lead to the reduction of forces in the Spratlys and reduce the chances of an accidental military confrontation in the area, he said.

A joint fishing agreement, on the other hand, may provide leniency on fishermen in either sides.

Severino said the Philippines was considering releasing 62 Chinese fishermen it detained last March in the disputed islands.

The fishermen pleaded guilty on Wednesday to malicious mischief instead of illegal fishing.

"The president said once they are convicted ... there is room for a decision by the executive," Severino said.

Severino also disclosed that China was willing to talk for the first time about "sovereignty issues" involving its claim on the islands — another breakthrough since China has limited itself on economic and trade issues when dealing about their historical claims on the islands.

The potentially oil-rich cluster of reefs are also claimed in whole or in part by Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Both the Philippines and China have sent troops to occupy several of the islands.

Severino said legal experts from both countries would also discuss their respective claims during a meeting at a date yet to be decided.

But he stressed that territorial disputes between the two will "take many years to resolve." [passage omitted]

Siazon Views U.S. Pressure on Air Services

BK1608053795 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Domingo Siazon confirms that the United States is pressuring the Philippines to grant more landing rights for American airplanes. Siazon said commercial as well as security interests were at play in the recent declaration by the US Federal Aviation Authority [FAA] that the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is unsafe. The US and the Philippines are scheduled to negotiate a new air service agreement next month. DOTC [Department of Transportation and Communication] officials earlier said the FAA declaration was part of the pressure being applied by the Americans in preparation for the negotiations.

Thailand

Reportage on Murder of Burmese Fishermen

Burma Issues Press Release

BK1608091195 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Aug 95 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the wake of growing concern over the murder of a Burmese crewman on a fishing boat, the Burmese Embassy yesterday issued a press release to give its version of what it claimed was the real story.

Official agencies including the Interior Ministry have come up with conflicting accounts of the incident. The Burmese Embassy said it hoped the content of the press release would give readers a clearer idea of what had really taken place.

According to the embassy, on July 29, the fishing vessel JV 44 owned by Thailand's Myanmar Narong Company entered Mergui to undergo an inspection with 24 crew members — seven Thais and 17 Burmese. Unable to tolerate ill treatment from the Thai members of the crew, 16 Burmese seamen decided to stay behind in Mergui.

The press release said the Burmese fishermen told Burmese authorities the Thai fishing vessel had breached a fishing agreement by catching marine animals, which was not permitted. On August 5, the 16 Burmese crewmen travelled on board the vessel JV 47, also owned by the Myanmar Narong Co, from Mergui to Kawthaung.

The JV 44 and 10 other boats later arrived at Kawthaung and surrounded the JV 47. It was then that a Burmese police officer boarded the JV 44 and the JV 47 to take away 10 Burmese nationals for interrogation, apparently due to the complaint on violation of the fishing agreement.

There were a total of 28 Burmese seamen on both the JV 44 and the JV 47, according to the press release. After the 10 fishermen had left the vessels with the police officer the Thai crew allegedly began assaulting the remaining 18 Burmese seamen, forcing them to jump overboard.

Vessel JV 44 then chased the Burmese seamen and caught five of them. The Thai fishermen then tied their hands and feet with ropes and began beating them.

The five Burmese crewmen were later thrown back into the sea. One of the crewmen, identified as Sein Aye Kyaw, managed to free himself from the ropes and swam to shore where he met one of the seamen who had jumped overboard.

The two reported the incident to Kawthaung police. The vessels, JV 44 and JV 47, reportedly returned to Ranong from Kawthaung port on August 6.

Following an intense search around Kawthaung and Tathay Kyun, two bodies, believed to be those of the ill-fated Burmese crewmen, were discovered. Each body was bound with ropes.

Burmese authorities have requested that their Thai counterparts order a prompt investigation into the incident and take swift action against the guilty parties. The Burmese Government warned that mutual economic interests of Thailand and Burma would be affected if uncertainty surrounding the case was not cleared up.

In the latest development, Ranong police apprehended two Thai crewmen on suspicion they had colluded with fellow fishermen to carry out the murder. The police named the suspects as Khamsai Khankaeo and Phon (surname not given).

Foreign Minister Kasemsamoson Kasemsi told reporters the Burmese Embassy has forwarded a memorandum of understanding to the ministry to officially confirm its request for an investigation into the murder. Efforts must ensure that justice is done to preserve the interests of both countries and prevent the problem from worsening, he added.

The government is worried as the problem is likely to have adverse effects on various economic interests apart from the fishing industry: The murder case has put extra pressure on Thai authorities who are attempting to solve a number of existing problems with Burma.

The Burmese Government has temporarily closed a border pass in Ranong in what many see as a protest against Thailand over the brutal killing.

There have been conflicting reports on the number of Burmese crewmen killed. Thai authorities and their Burmese counterparts have released different accounts concerning the murder case.

The matter could take a turn for the worse if there is strong evidence to confirm the report which claims many Burmese fishermen were murdered. Appropriate measures must be set up to prevent a recurrence of such incidents.

Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut expressed concern over the temporary closure of the border pass in Ranong, saying the intensifying conflict between the two countries had become more critical.

He said representatives from the armed forces have been appointed to the fact-finding committee set up with Interior Ministry approval to probe the incident. The fact that his ministry is looking to form its own committee to probe the case should confirm the government's sincerity in dealing with it, said Gen [General] Chawalit.

Vice Adm [Admiral] Kraichit Sirisombat, director of the Information Office attached to Supreme Command Headquarters, said Gen Chawalit has paid special attention to the murder case and has instructed the Army to set up a committee to investigate it. Legal experts from the Army and representatives from the ministry will sit on the committee.

Supreme Command Headquarters, which oversees the committee implementing Thai-Burma border policies, will closely monitor the investigation and report any progress to Burmese authorities, said Vice Adm Kraichit.

Deputy Interior Minister Suchat Tancharoen said he would go to Ranong today to attend a meeting of senior ministry officials on Thai-Burma border policy.

A ministry source said Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha has assigned Mr Suchat to attend the meeting in the hope of finding ways to lessen growing hostility over the border situation.

The committee members are expected to remain in Ranong for the duration of the investigation and may begin work today.

Minister Pledges 'Serious Action'

BK1608110795 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 16 Aug 95 p A3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — The Thai government has pledged to take serious action against those responsible for the murder of Burmese crew members on board a Thai-owned fishing trawler in the Andaman Sea, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday.

Gen [General] Chawalit said the Thai government has not ignored the case of the killing of the Burmese fishermen, but instead has shown its intention to deal with the matter seriously.

Provincial police in Ranong on Monday arrested two Thai crew members Khamsai Khankaeo and Phon (of unidentified surnames) of the fishing trawler owned by the Narong Canning Co. (NCC) for allegedly beating to death two Burmese crew members.

The killing reportedly occurred after Burmese authorities terminated the fishing rights of the Thai company early this month for its alleged violation of fishing regulations .

In the wake of the killing, Burmese authorities recently closed the last overland border checkpoint with Thailand in Burma's southernmost city of Victoria Point.

In effort to take action, Chawalit said the government has set up a fact-finding investigative committee joined by the military officers. He added the Defense Ministry has also established a military committee to investigate on the facts of the incident.

"The government will try its best to find the facts and prevent a repeat of such an incident," said the minister, adding: "It is our responsibility to take action without hoping to get something in return."

Gen Chawalit, who is due pay an unofficial visit to Burma on September 1 to discuss a number of bilateral issues with Burmese military rulers, said he has been informed two other fishing trawlers involved in the incident were still at large, but the police expect they will be traced soon.

Foreign Minister MR Kasemsamoson Kasemsi said the foreign ministry will examine the Burmese side's report again in detail because the report claimed 17 Burmese were killed, not only two men as initially reported.

Finance Minister Visits SRV To Expand Trade

Goals Outlined

BK1208141495 Bangkok BUSINESS DAY in English 12-13 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai will lead a trade delegation to Vietnam for a three-day visit starting tomorrow aimed at improving the investment climate in the new Asean member and smoothing the introduction of the government's Indochina development fund.

During the visit Dr Surakiat will hold discussions on key issues with Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Finance Minister Ho Te, officials said.

"The discussions will involve customs duty reduction and liberalization of the financial sector, because at present Vietnam is seen as a member of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta)," said Dr Surakiat.

Dr Surakiat said talks with the Vietnamese finance minister would focus on Thailand's proposed Indochina Development Fund.

Their talks would enable Thailand to find out more about Vietnam's investment support needs, he said.

The information would then help to clarify the fund's format and function, he said.

The Indochina development fund is being set up by the government to provide financial support for infrastructure projects in Indochina, Myanmar [Burma] and southern China.

Dr Surakiat said the two sides would discuss how to remove obstacles to investment, thus paving the way for an increase in the volume of Thai funds going to Vietnam.

Although Thailand had a geographic advantage compared with other countries, Thailand did not appear in the top ten in terms of investment volume, Dr Surakiat said.

In the banking and finance sector Thailand was ranked third after Singapore and Malaysia, the finance minister said.

More Bank Branches Encouraged

BK1408084695 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Aug 95 p I6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Finance Ministry will encourage Thai commercial banks to open more branches in Vietnam to provide financial services to Thai entrepreneurs investing there.

Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai said if Thai commercial banks open more branches in Vietnam, it would help Thai investors when trying to finance investment projects.

Despite being close to Vietnam, Thailand ranks 10th among foreign investors, and Mr Surakiat said Thailand should play a more active role.

The establishment of the Indochina Fund should help Thai investors, he said.

The Indochina Fund is to be established by the Thai Government and would be run by the Export Import Bank of Thailand.

It would provide financial aide as loans, soft loans and grants to Indochinese countries, in particular Vietnam, for country-development projects.

The Government would first set initial capital for the fund at five billion baht, but Mr Surakiat has planned to increase the Fund's capital to about 20 billion baht. Part of the Fund's initial capital would be borrowed from foreign reserves, according to Mr Surakiat.

He said one of the main conditions for lending to Indochinese countries is that borrowers would have to employ Thai contractors and procure materials from Thailand when undergoing projects.

"Therefore, the fund would not only help develop the Indochinese region, it would also benefit Thai businesses," Mr Surakiat said.

Mr Surakiat has been on an official visit to Vietnam, and will preside over the opening ceremony of Vina-Siam Bank a new commercial bank which is a joint venture of Siam Commercial Bank, Charoen Phokkhaphan Group and the Vietnamese Government.

Mr Surakiat said during the official visit he would hold talks with the Vietnamese prime minister, finance minister and central bank governor on the issue to open the Vietnamese money market.

Offer of Development Fund Welcomed

BK1508074795 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Aug 95 p 17

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has welcomed Thailand's offer to set up a regional development fund and its proposal to build a second bridge across the Mekong River to improve links with Laos and Vietnam.

Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai outlined the proposals during his weekend visit to Vietnam — the first official visit by a Thai Cabinet minister since the new Government took office.

During discussions on the Thailand Economic Development Assistance Fund. Dr Surakiat and Vietnamese Finance Minister Ho Te agreed to set up a joint committee on finance co-chaired by senior economic officials from both countries.

The committee would be in charge of the six-billion-baht development fund aimed at smoothing Vietnam's economic development.

Mr Te is expected to sign the agreement formalising the committee on a coming visit to Bangkok.

"Thailand has supported a variety of training programmes concerning banking and finance matters, including stock market development, and we will further the cooperation with the fund," Dr Surakiat explained. He said he had also told his Vietnamese counterpart that the Securities and Exchange Commission had decided to allow Thai companies investing in Vietnam to be listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. This move would encourage further Thai investment in Vietnam, he said.

The Finance Minister also outlined a project to build a bridge that would cross the Mekong River in Mukdahan province, linking Thailand to Suwannaket in Laos and Vietnam's Danang port via Highway 9.

Under Dr Surakiat's proposal, Thailand would be in charge of acquiring financial support for the project from the Asian Development Bank. Vietnam, meanwhile, would negotiate with Laos to coordinate the plan.

Mr Kiet told Dr Surakiat that the Laotian Government supported the aims of the project.

During his discussions with Mr Kiet, Dr Surakiat raised the possibility of upgrading Thailand's state-run Krung Thai Bank in Hanoi from a representative office to a full branch office. The Vietnamese Prime Minister supported the plan.

Dr Surakiat also held talks with State Bank of Vietnam governor Cao Si Kiem, discussing a wide range of issues including the securities market, monetary and fiscal policies, taxation and regional development.

Impact of Visit Examined

BK1608090595 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 16 Aug 95 p A 4

[Editorial: "A Timely Trip"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The trip to Vietnam made by the finance minister is most timely. The trip is the first of the new government. As Vietnam has just joined ASEAN as its seventh member, it serves to start a dialogue between Vietnam and another ASEAN member on various issues including finance, banking and cooperation in joint ventures. As the minister of finance is also keen about international trade, the topics to be covered in his talks with high-ranking Vietnamese officials, including the prime minister, will certainly cover a wide range of subjects.

Indeed Vietnam is an important neighbor of Thailand and it should be a nation in which Thai traders and investors paid more attention. But the fact remains that Thailand ranks thirteenth in terms of investment in Vietnam. A number of factors have accounted for this. First, at the time when Vietnam was opening up its door for foreign investment, Thai businessmen had been preoccupied with investing domestically because of the good opportunity accorded them by Thailand's economic growth and business boom.

As a result, the incentive to invest outside was not as great as the domestic incentive. Other nations such as Taiwan, France, Hong Kong and others then spearheaded investment in the virgin country, industrially speaking.

The second factor which hampered Thailand's investment in Vietnam was the mistrust between the two countries due to the Vietnam War, a mistrust that lingered on at that time when other nations rushed in with their projects. The problem was compounded by the fact even after the war, the situation continued for some time. It is natural for human beings to get adjusted slowly, both psychologically and in terms of action. Both sides had been playing a waiting game and the psychological hurdles were gradually lifted as time progressed. The two nations were friendly, although in economic and business terms they realized that they would one day become rivals in trade and in luring foreign investors. But such competition is healthy and should work positively in the longer run.

The third factor, one must admit, is the lack of governmental support on the part of the Thai agencies concerned. This could stem from the fact that up in the high echelons of power, the attitude towards Vietnam at that time was still unchanged due to mistrust. As a result, other nations whose governments worked strenuously to pave the way for their businessmen to venture into Vietnam have gained an upper hand. The role of the government could make a significant difference here. A good example is Myanmar [Burma]. Thailand and Myanmar used to have close ties but one must admit that at this particular moment, an effort must be made to rekindle the old friendship.

The visit made by the minister of finance served as a harbinger of more visits to be made to the country and hopefully return visits will also feature. It is hoped that in the near future, the prime minister will make a call on the Vietnamese counterpart and vice versa. After the prime minister has settled down, it is hoped that he will start to make his official visits to neighboring countries to foster closer relations and to discuss matters of mutual interest such as trade, joint ventures, investment, scientific and technological cooperation, cultural and scholarly exchanges.

In the boundary-free world to be, dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation are sine qua non for international relations and modern diplomatic operation. Visits made by heads of state, top executives and high-ranking officials for goodwill, confidence building and cooperation in the various areas are important for peaceful co-existence and mutually beneficial relationships. It is gratifying that the finance minister has pioneered such a move. More missions of this kind are expected to be contemplated by the government.

Army Paper 'Ridiculed' Political Reform Panel

BK1608095695 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government's political reform ran into another brick wall yesterday when ARMY NEWS, the official bi-weekly newspaper of the Royal Thai Army, ridiculed its Political Reform Committee as being set up to do something which everyone knew could not be achieved.

A columnist in the paper, published by the Royal Thai Army's Information Office, wrote a satire piece on the committee and said that political reform will be hard to achieve because it was a matter of "taking away power from the powerful by the unpowerful"

Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha set up the committee, headed by his brother Chat Thai MP [member of parliament] Chumphon, to work on the political reform proposal which is one of the Government's major promises in its policy statement.

The piece was published in the August 10 edition of Army News. The writer, with the pen name of "Lt-Col [Lieutenant Colonel] Thatthiam Yiamnakhon", is believed to be an officer attached to the Army Secretariat Office.

The writer said he was making constructive comments to build a driving force for the committee so it would have the motivation to achieve its goal. The political reform idea, he said, was based on a totally irrational idea which seeks to "do the impossible".

"The political reform plan is more or less like the story of the foolish grandfather trying to move the mountain," said the writer.

The committee was only duty-bound to draft a master plan on how to develop politics. To his understanding, the plan was not an order and would not necessarily materialise.

At the end of a fierce debate over how the master plan should be mapped out, it was likely the committee executives would not have a clear idea what to do with the plan. Parliament was the only agency which had the authority to approve the plan and put it into action.

The writer harboured doubts on whether the 35-member committee, which lacked the power, would be able to convince members of the Upper and Lower Houses that its plan was worth being made into a decent political reform guideline. MPs and senators he stressed, were the people with real power.

One would only be deceiving oneself to raise hopes that a plan drafted by people without power would ever be turned into a legitimate order.

Mr Chumphon has been made a clown for chairing the committee. The writer said his writing was intended to "wake" people up to the real world where the plan to reform politics would never get off the drawing board.

Mr Chumphon said he welcomed any comment on the functioning of the Political Reform Committee. The people would be left to decide whether to accept the political reform idea proposed by his committee.

Prime Minister's deputy secretary-general Wirasak Khosurat tried to brush aside the army criticism saying that it was a good sign that the Army has expressed a desire to see an improvement in national politics. He did not think the Army was trying to discredit the Government Political Reform Committee.

Many people have shown they wanted political reform to be carried out in compliance with the proposal by the Democracy Development Committee (DDC).

Under the DDC guidelines, Article 211 in the Constitution must be amended to pave the way for a committee responsible for reforming politics to be set up.

Mr Wirasak said the committee would select only good points in the DDC proposal. DDC chairman Prawet Wasi has been broad-minded enough to meet the committee half way.

Many non-governmental organisations have brainstormed the political reform plan in the hope of coming up with the right direction in implementing the issue.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said the invitation by the Army and the Navy for the DDC to attend their discussions was part of Defence Ministry policy to open up the "barracks" to the people.

Key members of the DDC were invited to join in discussions aimed at explaining the idea behind political reform to military personnel. The Navy held the discussion on Monday while the Army is scheduled to organise theirs on August 23.

He agreed that army personnel should be educated about the political reform issue.

Army Chief Views Political Reform Process

BK1608073695 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Army Chief Wimon Wongwanit prefers the term "political development" to "political reform" and agrees any changes to the political system should be made through the parliamentary process.

This was what he told 280 Chulalongkon University freshmen during his speech on the Army and national development yesterday.

Political reform has become a hot issue since Chat Thai leader Banhan Sinlapa-acha promised during campaigning for the July 2 general election that he would make it top priority if he was able to form a government.

Mr Banhan's party won the largest number of House seats. He is now prime minister.

Political reform was suggested by senior citizen and Magsaysay Award winner Prawet Wasi. The core principle was amendments to Article 211 of the Constitution to make way for the setting up of a special panel to draft a new constitution which can create "true democracy" in the country.

MPs [members of parliament] and senators, however, cannot sit on the special committee, according to Dr Prawet.

This has caused dissatisfaction among legislators.

Gen [General] Wimon said any changes to the political system should be made by Parliament. All parties concerned should jointly find the pattern that is most appropriate to Thai society rather than copy other countries .

The Army chief refused to criticise the Banhan administration when asked by a student.

Ieng Muli Rebuts THE NATION Editorial

BK1608075595 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Aug 95 p A 4

[From the 'Letters' Column]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE NATION's editorial on Aug 10 entitled "Foundation of Cambodian Democracy on Quicksand" contained a number of views which were not well founded and which I wish to take the liberty of correcting.

I wish to affirm that it is sheer speculation to assert that the Meas Chanleap, a member of our National Assembly, committed suicide because of "the expulsion of four colleagues from the BLDP (Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party)" of which he was a leading member. This expulsion was simply a cause and not the cause, and was a small one, of his distress when Meas Chanleap's close relatives and friends had said that he had planned this attempt on his life long before the BLDP's decision to expel those members.

THE NATION should have gathered more information before jumping so quickly to that misleading conclusion if it wished to serve its readers well, and if it has good intentions for the BLDP, for Cambodia and for its young democracy.

The same editorial also claimed that Son Sann was the founder of the BLDP. Unfortunately, such a claim is not well-founded. Actually, Son Sann was simply a and not the founder. Many others who had been working for the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPLNF), including Meas Chanleap, together with Son Sann actually founded the BLDP in Phnom Penh. I can claim that I was the architect of the party's principles, programme, logo and name.

In May, 1995, Son Sann started off the whole process of expulsion from the BLDP and contributed to the expulsion of MP's [members of parliament] from the National Assembly when he and his followers expelled me from the BLDP, and when he requested the National Assembly to expel me at a time when the Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party expelled Sam Rangsi from the National Assembly.

The death of Meas Chanleap had nothing to do at all with Cambodia's democracy. I would like THE NATION to recall that the actual ruling coalition is elected by the people of Cambodia. I can assure THE NATION and its readers that this democracy is healthy and we are in the process of consolidating it. An administrative reform programme is now under way to make it accountable to the people and serve them better. The judiciary is also undergoing a reform with an intensive training programme and the setting up of an independent High Council of the Magistracy with the objective of ensuring an independent judiciary served by competent, independent and impartial magistrates.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has supported human rights NGO's [nongovernmental organizations] in their respective human rights and democracy training activities and has sent many army officers, police officers and civil servants of all levels of administration and everywhere throughout the country to attend their classes. It is also responsive to their representations when our two prime ministers, other members of the government and MP's maintain continued dialogue with these and other groups as well as the Cambodian people in general.

Since the election of 1993, no human rights activist has been killed or ill-treated. There were three journalists killed in 1994 but thorough police investigations have led to no conclusive evidence that the killing had been linked to their exercise of the freedom of expression. However, since January this year, no journalist has been killed or ill-treated.

Our National Assembly has been functioning well and in just about two years it has adopted over 10 important laws. The expulsion of those concerned MP's has been and continues to be their doing since they have been using other platforms to launch their smear campaign against their own government. They are not stateless persons and have all platforms in the National Assembly and elsewhere inside the country to make statements.

All political parties, including the BLDP, with support from their members under the very high guidance of His Majesty the King of Cambodia, agreed to form a coalition government after the election. This was the first time in Cambodia's history that different groupings shared power for the benefit of the nation. Is it a dictatorship'? Those MP's need to support it. Instead, they have abused their parliamentary immunity and have been making an effort to score points against it simply to show off regardless whether their statement has sowed division in the country we are uniting. They forget that other MP's have rights too. Other MP's have the right to request the removal of Kim Sokha from the chairmanship of the National Assembly's Human Rights Commission. Who can be sure that his replacement could not do as good a job as, or better than, Kim Sokha?

Cambodia has experienced a drastic change for the better since the election of 1993. Everybody in Cambodia is free to travel everywhere, although they have to face the banditry committed mainly by the Khmer Rouge. We have a free press and the countless newspapers, radio stations and TV channels which are testimonies to our status.

Lately, the Royal Government has been making an effort to address the poverty issue which last year's floods and drought had aggravated.

Our democracy is on firm ground, and we are on the right road to prosperity. Though this road is long, we are nevertheless confident we are getting there.

[signed] Ieng Muli

Phnom Penh

Changes Proposed in Alien Business Law

BK1408061695 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Aug 95 p B1, B2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand has urged the government to permit it to view and comment on the proposed draft amendment of the Alien Business Law — an issue that will top the agenda of a round-table meeting with economic ministers on Aug 16.

"The foreign chambers are concerned that reported proposed changes to the definition of 'alien' will make it more difficult for foreign businesses to conduct business in Thailand," one chamber said.

Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha would deliver his keynote address before the local foreign business community this Wednesday, his first since he took office, at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre.

His opening would be followed by a round-table discussion with key economic ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister Dr Amnuai Wirawan and Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai.

Surakiat is likely to come under tough questioning since he was one of the architects of the drafting of the Alien Business Law, which took place during the last government when the minister was still a law professor at Chulalongkon University.

The Wednesday meeting is being organized by the Federation of Thai Industries, the Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand, NCC Management & Development Co, and the Nation Publishing Group.

The foreign chambers have submitted issues of concern, which have been distributed to the ministers attending the meeting.

The Alien Business Law tops the concerns of the foreign chambers as it dictates how foreigners could conduct businesses in Thailand. Surakiat has insisted previously that the changes would make it easier for foreigners to conduct business here.

But concerns over the details of the changes remain. One chamber said that it understood the proposal would restrict the rights of companies to be incorporated with preferential voting and dividend rights. The foreign chambers would like to see the existing definition of alien remain in the new law.

Other issues put forth by the foreign chambers for the government to quickly resolve are:

Work Permits: The procedures for obtaining work permits and visas are under the jurisdiction of two different laws and ministries — the Labour Department for work permits and the Immigration Department for visas.

The requirements and procedures of each department are not coordinated, which results in much unnecessary time being spent in obtaining the two together. The foreign chambers would like the government to consider issuing work permits and visas through a "one-stop shop" similar to the existing BoI [Board of Investment] and Petroleum Act procedures.

There was also a proposal sometime ago to introduce multiple entry non-resident visas, but the issue has not been followed up since.

Customs: The foreign chambers are concerned about the lack of transparency and apparently unequal treatment of companies in relation to the application of customs duties. Additionally, the chambers would like to see more streamlined and efficient procedures for customs clearance.

Civil/Criminal Liability: Thai law imposes criminal liabilities on many cases which in other jurisdictions would be considered civil liabilities — for example, failures to file returns in relation to companies. The Foreign Chambers of Commerce would like to see these offences decriminalized and made civil offences only.

Member recruitment: The inability of the foreign chambers to recruit members outside Bangkok. With the growth and disbursement of industries outside Bangkok, many foreign investors and businesses upcountry are deprived of the opportunity to voice their concerns for the betterment of Thailand.

Infrastructure: Another concern for the decentralization of business and industry is evident in the inability of many companies to induce staff to move upcountry where their work is located, such as in Chiang Mai, Rayong, Map Tha Phut and many smaller communities, which do not have educational facilities of the calibre found in Bangkok.

As a result, many workers commute between their workplaces and Bangkok on weekends so their children can obtain a better education by continuing to live in Bangkok.

This practice is counter-productive as it also increases traffic congestion on Mondays and Fridays in and around Bangkok. Better schools are needed upcountry, which may be a project the foreign community could help resolve jointly with Thai organizations. Road safety and goods transport should now be a key issue.

Environment: Referring to the the government's policy statement in Parliament in July, the government declared it would support the participation of the public and local people in environmental management.

How does the government plan to do this in practice? Is it prepared to support a new law recognizing co-management by the government and local communities of natural resources at the local level?

Thailand's rapid economic development has resulted in significant degrading of natural resources and the environment. How does the government propose to strictly enforce existing laws to improve the management of natural resources and environmental quality?

Natural resources and environmental degradation often occur on private land and generate significant social and environmental costs. How would the government propose to collect an environment tax from those who degrade natural resources on privately held land and from those who use public natural resources — including sea water and mangrove forests — rent free, to recover these costs?

Aquaculture farming: Shrimp aquaculture is a multi-billion baht industry in Thailand, and one in which most foreign and domestic banks have significant investments.

What is the government's policy on the promotion of shrimp aquaculture? How would the government address the serious pollution that results from shrimp aquaculture? How would it prevent the expansion of shrimp aquaculture into the small areas of remaining mangrove forests and onto lands unsuitable for shrimp raising?

Property Valuation Act: A revision of the Property Valuation Act of 1965 is long overdue. A draft Property Valuation Bill has been prepared by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Interior, but has failed to receive attention by previous governments.

When would the government revise this act? How does it propose to introduce and enforce land-use zoning on private land to ensure that environmentally unfriendly activities do not take place?

Ministries Cooperate on Industrial Policy

BK1008053695 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Aug 95 p 17

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Commerce and Industry Ministries have teamed to bring local industrial policies in line with export capacity, Commerce Minister Chuchip Hansawat said yesterday.

The two ministries are ready to adjust ministerial plans in the same direction to increase Thailand's export competitiveness, Mr Chuchip said.

After a meeting yesterday with Industry Minister Chaiwat Sinsuwong, Mr Chuchip said it is vital to adjust policies of the two ministries, particularly over production capacity and export targets.

This adjustment will make Thai exports more realistic and consistent with global market demand, he said.

Cooperation means new technology must be introduced to increase production capacity and create value added products. This will enable Thailand to be on par with overseas competitors.

Mr Chaiwat said this is the first time the Industry Ministry will formulate an industrial policy in line with policies from the Commerce Ministry.

The policy is to increase the number of export products to meet international market demand. Mr Chaiwat said this policy required suggestions from the Commerce Ministry, especially details about product quality.

He said policies initiated by the Industry Ministry will be finished by the end of this year.

Cha-re Chutharattakun, Commerce Permanent Secretary, said industrial development also has to incorporate export figures.

Thailand's flagship export goods are industrial products.

He said the plan would be beneficial to both ministries. It would clarify export direction, and information on supply and demand could be supplied to producers.

Proposed Bank Liberalization Package Reviewed

BK1108052695 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Aug 95 pp B1, B2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Advisers to Finance Minister Dr Surakiat Sathianthai are scheduling a public hearing to re-evaluate the conditions under which new commercial bank licences will be issued after the Juridical Council has completed scrutiny of the entire package.

Speaking from Manila, Wichit Suphinit, the Bank of Thailand governor, also indicated that the initial capital requirement for a new bank may be revised downward from [baht] Bt7.5 billion to Bt5 billion and a clause on shareholder structure may have to be reviewed so that it serves to further promote the stability of the financial system.

He also said the authorities may give priority for finance companies to upgrade their status into full commercial banks. "We want the banking liberalization to enhance stability of the financial system," Wichit said.

"We definitely will hold a public hearing to look into the issue again," said one of Surakiat's advisers.

Surakiat and his advisers believe that the terms of reference [TOR] for the application of the bank licences, as worked out by Surakiat's predecessor, are "too strict" and that if the package proceeds, it will not lead to genuine competition in the banking industry.

"The new players will have no chance to start their business and stay competitive," said the adviser. But he admitted there are several good points in the package that covers the broad aim of developing the banking system.

"The reward on the risk for new comers should be greater if the authorities really want more competition in the banking industry," said a chief executive of a foreign bank.

Phin Chakkaphak, chief of Finance One Plc and president of the Association of Finance Companies, has lobbied Surakiat to take a second look at the terms of reference for banking liberalization. He views that the conditions, which aim to promote social causes but do not make business sense, make it impossible for new comers to compete on the same basis with incumbent banks.

It remains uncertain whether a complete review of the banking liberalization package will cause a delay to the timetable for the issuing of new bank licences. The original schedule calls for the new comers to submit their applications between July and October this year, following which the authorities will scrutinize their qualifications. The Cabinet is scheduled to approve the licences in February or March 1996, after which the Finance Ministry, some time in April, will officially hand out the licences.

Two contentious issues are expected to be subject to debate; the core party to run a new bank and the shareholder structure. The present TOR allows a finance company and its affiliated firms to hold a combined 25 per cent stake in a new bank, yet with each controlling not more than 5 per cent. It also seeks to encourage the participation of new players — for instance, the CP Group, Osotsapha Group, Chinnawat Computer and Communications Group — in the banking industry to create a new dimension.

Most top-tier finance companies would like the authorities to allow them to upgrade their status to full-fledged commercial banks. Some also view that the combined stake a core party is allowed to control is not large enough for it to stay in charge.

The Bank of Thailand, which worked closely with the Finance Ministry in drafting the TOR, prefers a course of banking liberalization that favours the finance companies. It believes that for reasons of stability and supervision it is better off for the banking system to be operated by finance companies which really know what they are doing, rather than by non-finance companies which are new to the financial industry.

The central bank would also like to revise a clause that requires the new banks to distribute 50 per cent of their share capital to the public. This requirement makes it difficult for the core party to be in charge, taking the stability of the system into consideration.

The package, as worked out by former Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin, seeks to end the predominance of families in the banking business and prohibits the incumbent banks from having anything to do with the establishment of the new banks. It is also suspicious of the finance companies, which are part of the establishment and most of which are linked to the commercial banks.

Nopphon Ruangsakun, senior executive vice president of the Thai Thanu Bank, said, "It is good to hold a public hearing. But the Finance Ministry should really have a clear understanding of why it is necessary to hold one. The organizers should be knowledgeable in the subject and be able to make strong points about the various advantages and disadvantages in the TOR."

She suggested that members of the Bank of Thailand, Securities and Exchange Commission, Stock Exchange of Thailand, finance companies, banks, academics, businessmen and the public should be allowed to participate in the hearing so that it really satisfies the public interest.

Nopphon expected that the initial capital of Bt7.5 billion, the upgrading of the finance companies and the shareholder structure, may be sticking points.

Current Account Deficit Problem Examined

95SE0164A Bangkok THAN SETTHAKIT in Thai 1-4 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] During the period 1990-1994, the current account deficit increased from 186,185 million baht (8.5 percent of GDP) [in 1990] to 193,265 million baht (7.7 percent) [in 1991], 161,278 million baht (5.8 percent) [in 1992], 178,436 million baht (5.7 percent [in 1993], and 213,720 million baht (6 percent) [in 1994]. For the same years, the trade deficit was 255,136 million baht (11.6 percent of GDP), 247,263 million baht (9.9 percent), 205,381 million baht (7.3 percent), 221,661 million baht (7.0 percent), and 240,501 million baht (6.8 percent). At the same time, the transfer surplus declined from 68,951 million baht (3.1 percent of GDP) [in 1990] to 53,998 million baht (2.2 percent) [in 1991], 44,103 million baht (1.6 percent) [in 1992], 43,225 million baht (1.4 percent) [in 1993], and 26,751 million baht (0.7 percent) [in 1994]. Of this, 16,547 million, 11,725 million, 12,874 million, 19,699 million, and 22,744 million baht were accounted for by tourism.

The thing to notice about the trade and current account deficits is that during the period 1987-1989, imports increased faster than exports. During that period, imports increased at a very high rate, increasing at an average of 38.4 percent a year. But during that same period, exports rose an average of only 30.1 percent a year. Thus, the import base became much larger than the export base. And so, even though exports grew faster than imports during the period 1990-1994 (exports grew an average of 16.7 percent a year while imports grew an average of 15.9 percent), this could not compensate for the fact that imports had increased so much in previous years. As a result, the trade deficit skyrocketed from an average of 95,185 million baht a year during the period 1987-1989 to 233,989 million baht a year during the period 1990-1994, an increase of more than 140 percent.

Added to this is the fact that the balance of services surplus declined during this five-year period, from a surplus of 80,056 million baht in 1990 to 31,544 million baht in 1994. As a result, the current account deficit has grown even worse, rising from 186,185 million baht in 1990 to 213,720 million baht by the end of 1994. Besides this, deficits in the ocean transportation, insurance, copyright, trademark, and other service sectors increased from 3,700 million baht in 1990 to 14,400 million baht in 1994, an increase of almost 300 percent. In addition to this, business activities such as Thai laborers working abroad, foreign investment in Thailand, and Thai investment abroad have all played a part with respect to Thailand's current account deficit. What can be done to solve the "current account deficit problem"?

Dr. Narongchai Akkharaserani, the chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the G.F. Finance and Securities Company Ltd, said that 80 percent of the current account balance is accounted for by the balance of trade, and 20 percent is accounted for by the transfer and service balances. In the past, the balance of trade always showed a deficit while the balance of services always showed a surplus. But recently, the balance of trade has declined, and the balance of services has grown very little, which stems from the fact that tourism has declined. This also stems from the fact that transport service expenditures and commercial shipping insurance costs have increased. It will be rather difficult to solve these problems, and the private sector does not want to become involved because of the legal problems. It is quite difficult to operate ships and register foreign ships. The best solution is to increase exports. The use of Bangkok Port must be reduced, but that will be very difficult. Port management is up to the Port Authority of Thailand, which enjoys a monopoly. And the government does not like to interfere. It is expected that by the end of 1995, Thailand's current account deficit will rise 6 percent, which is a good projection if exports are good. But if exports do not do well, the deficit will increase more than 6 percent.

"As for solving the current account deficit problem, exports must be managed well. The cost of goods is the basic factor. This is what makes goods expensive, and this affects management, production, and distribution. Besides this, the need to control both the current account deficit and inflation will force the government to tighten up monetarily, which means that interest rates will rise." [passage omitted]

The Thai Farmers Research Center summarized the steps that should be taken to solve the current account deficit problem:

1. Steps must be taken to promote and support exports. It must be ensured that exports increase at a faster rate than imports. We must build a bigger and bigger export base in order to gradually reduce the trade deficit over the long term. This must be done by: 1.1) Increasing the number of markets instead of continuing to rely on traditional markets such as the United States, Japan, and the European Community. We must find new trading partners, including neighboring countries such as the ASEAN countries, Indochina, and other countries with great purchasing power, such as countries in the Middle East, China, South Korea, and Taiwan. 1.2) We must

also increase the number of types of goods exported and step up the production of processed agricultural products.

2. We must change the import structure so that goods come from a greater variety of sources and increase imports from countries with weak currencies. Today, the reason why Thailand's trade deficit is growing worse is that we are still dependent on capital goods, machinery, raw materials, and semi-processed materials. These account for 74 percent of total imports. During the past decade, the trade deficit increased from 61,671 million baht in 1985 to 230,931 million baht in 1994. Our trade deficit with Japan is 218,310 million baht, or 95 percent of our total trade deficit. In comparison, in 1985, Thailand's trade deficit with Japan was only 40,759 million baht, which equaled 66.1 percent of our total trade deficit.

Thus, to reduce the trade deficit, we must focus on Thai-Japanese trade. At the same time, we must find import sources with weak currencies, because the Japanese Yen has become much harder during the past 10 years, with the result that Thailand's trade deficit with Japan has increased constantly.

If steps are taken to solve the export-import problem as proposed above, with exports increasing by an average of at least 13.4 percent a year during the period 1995-2003 and with imports rising at a lower rate—it is thought that imports will increase at a rate of 11 percent a year during the period 1995-2003—the growth of exports and imports at these rates will result in a gradual decline in the trade deficit. And by the year 2003, we should have a trade surplus.

3. Steps must be taken to stimulate tourism, because tourism plays a major role in improving our foreign currency position with respect to the balance of services in the current account balance. To solve this problem, we must encourage more foreign tourists to visit Thailand. This can be done by developing tourist programs linked to neighboring countries in the form of selling package programs. Thailand has an advantage in that it is a transit point to Indochina, southern China, Burma, and South Asia. At the same time, steps must be taken to change the behavior of Thais, who like to travel abroad. We must get them to travel to tourist sites in Thailand instead. We must make Thais see that traveling abroad is bad for the country, because foreign currency flows out of the country. In the long term, that is bad for the monetary security of the country.

4. Steps must be taken to strengthen our merchant marine fleet in order to reduce our dependence on foreign ships as much as possible. This will also result in cargo shipping fees going to Thai ships rather than foreign ships.

5. Steps must be taken to encourage the employment of Thai laborers abroad by expanding labor markets to other countries that need laborers in place of older labor markets that are now experiencing problems. This includes such markets as Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, and Korea. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Receives Thai Finance Minister

BK1408152895 Hanoi VNA in English
1450 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Aug. 14—Vietnam and Thailand both have expressed their wish to promote bilateral cooperation in the finance sector.

The wish was revealed during the current Vietnam visit by Thailand's Finance Minister Dr. Surakiat Sathianthai, who arrived here on Aug. 12.

Mr. S. Sathianthai and his delegation were received here this afternoon by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet who spoke highly of the two countries' effective cooperation on finance and banking over the past time, hailing Thailand's initiatives to further promote its cooperation with and assistance to Vietnam. PM Kiet also expressed his hope that the two countries would develop a model on financial cooperation as part of joint efforts to boost their multi-faceted cooperation for the interests of each country, and for peace, cooperation and development in the region.

The Thai minister, for his part, informed PM Kiet of the results of his meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart, Mr. Ho Te, which, he said were useful for opening a new era in the relations between the two nations in general and the two ministries in particular. He suggested that Vietnam and Thailand should set up an inter-governmental commission to draft investment projects, thus ensuring effective implementation of agreements reached by the Vietnamese and Thai Governments.

The two ministers reached consensus on the contents and forms of bilateral cooperation in the coming time, particularly on personnel training programme sponsored by Thailand, and the contents and ways for Vietnam's joining ASEAN financial activities. They also discussed steps to carry out the double taxation agreement finalised by the two countries and agreed to submit to their respective governments the draft of a project to build Highway No. 9 linking Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.

Bulgarian Socialist Party Delegation Visits

BK1408025095 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation of our party Central Committee, a delegation of the Socialist Party of Bulgaria [SPB] headed by Comrade Krasimir Premianov, vice chairman of the SPB Supreme Council, arrived in Hanoi yesterday on a visit to Vietnam.

This morning, at the party Central Committee Office, our party delegation led by Comrade Le Duc Anh, member of the party Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee held talks with the SPB delegation headed by Comrade Krasimir Premianov. The two delegations exchanged views on measures to strengthen cooperation between the two parties to accelerate friendship and cooperation relations between the two countries for the benefit of the people in each country and for peace, stability, and development in the world.

Meets With Leaders

BK1108083995 Hanoi VNA in English 0526 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Aug. 10 — Party General Secretary Do Muoi and Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai received here on separate occasions a delegation of the Socialist Party of Bulgaria (SPB) headed by Mr. Krasimir Premianov, vice chairman of the SPB Supreme Council, now on an official visit to Vietnam.

Welcoming the visit, the Vietnamese party leader expressed gratitude to the former Communist Party of Bulgaria, the Bulgarian people for their valuable support and assistance to the Vietnamese revolution. He said he hoped that the friendly relations between parties and the peoples of the two countries' would be further consolidated and developed in the years to come.

During his reception of Mr. K. Premianov and his party, Deputy Prime Minister Khai said the visit marked a new era in the relationship between the two countries. He briefed the Bulgarian guests, who arrived here on August 4, about Vietnam's socio-economic achievements recorded in the renovation process, saying that thanks to the correct and appropriate policies Vietnam has overcome the economic crisis and is shifting to a market oriented economy from centrally planned one.

Mr. K. Premianov, affirmed the desire of the SPB and the Bulgarian people to restore and develop the time-honoured relations with the Vietnamese Party and people, and to promote the multi-faceted cooperation with Vietnam.

Ho Chi Minh Court Jails Buddhist Dissidents

BK1608135895 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ho Chi Minh City people's court held a preliminary trial yesterday in the case of six defendants—namely, Dang Quoc Tue, Phan Ngoc An, Pham Van Tua, Pham Van Tuong, Nguyen Thi Em, and Ho Buu Hoa—for committing sabotage against the solidarity policy and taking advantage of the rights of liberty and democracy to violate the interests of the state and citizens.

A summary of the case: On 16 September 1992, acting on information provided by the public, the Ho Chi Minh City public security force arrested Pham Van Tua while he was typing the contents of a 20 September 1992 declaration to sabotage the national solidarity policy, distort the truth, and propagandize against the socialist regime. Upon searching his body and accommodations, the investigators also discovered many other documents with contents on distorting the solidarity policy of the party and of the Vietnamese Government.

On 2 October 1992, the Ho Chi Minh City public security force arrested Phan Ngoc An and Pham Van Tuong while they were distributing documents with the same contents as those documents seized from Pham Van Tua. Phan Ngoc An, Pham Van Tua, and Pham Van Tuong admitted their crime after interrogation and pledged to the government that they would never do it again. After being released, however—under the instruction of Le Dinh Nhan and Dang Phuoc Tue—Phan Ngoc An, Pham Van Tuong, and Pham Van Tua continued to work with Ho Buu Hoa, Nguyen Thi Em, and others to publicly violate the law at a more serious level.

In order to carry out a conspiracy to sabotage the national solidarity policy, Le Dinh Nhan and Dang Phuoc Tue engaged in many illegal activities. In particular, after the demise of Venerable Bonze Thich Don Hau in 1982, Le Dinh Nhan instructed Phan Ngoc An, Pham Van Tuong, Pham Van Tua, Ho Buu Hoa, and Nguyen Thi Em to conduct activities violating the solidarity policy of the party and the Vietnamese state, and at the same time, to sabotage the Vietnam Buddhist Church, a Buddhist organization recognized by our government.

At Le Dinh Nhan's instructions, some elements in Ho Chi Minh City led by Phan Ngoc An, Pham Van Tua, and Pham Van Tuong compiled, printed, and distributed documents with contents to distort the historic reality of the Vietnamese revolution in an attempt to sow division between Buddhism and the government and between Buddhism and people from all walks of life. Phan Ngoc

An, Pham Van Tuong, Pham Van Tua, and Nguyen Thi Em compiled and printed dozens of documents provided by Le Dinh Nhan and by overseas reactionaries to widely distribute in Ho Chi Minh City and other provinces.

In addition to activities to sabotage our party and government's solidarity policy, Dang Phuoc Tue, Phan Ngoc An, Pham Van Tua, Pham Van Tuong, Ho Buu Hoa, and Nguyen Thi Em also committed the crime of taking advantage of the rights of liberty and democracy to violate the interests of the state, social organizations, and citizens. Phan Ngoc An, Ho Buu Hoa, Pham Van Tuong, and others established illegal organizations. Dang Phuoc Tue and some others set up an illegal office at No. 90 Tran Quang Dieu Street, Phu Nhuan Precinct, in Ho Chi Minh City to provide instructions for Phan Ngoc An to conduct activities against the regime. Dang Phuoc Tue, Phan Ngoc An, Pham Van Tua, Pham Van Tuong, and Ho Buu Hoa received money from overseas reactionaries in the form of public donations for relief aid to [words indistinct] in Ho Chi Minh City on 6 November 1994.

All of the defendants' conspiracies and bad intentions were discovered and promptly stopped. After that, Phan Ngoc An and Ho Buu Hoa reported to Dang Phuoc Tue about the failed attempt to take advantage of the relief aid. Dang Quoc Tue wrote and sent abroad two urgent messages with contents slandering the Vietnamese Government, creating opportunities for bad elements living overseas to oppose and sabotage Vietnam.

The judgment council held that the defendants' crimes not only violated the interests of the state, social organizations, and citizens in social order and state administrative management but also infringed on the national solidarity and unity policy. These crimes were committed to oppose the people's government. The defendants' criminal activities not only disturbed the social order and security and damaged the people's peaceful life but also created disturbances in the Buddhist clergymen and church followers' lifestyle of a better religion and better life.

Considering the seriousness of the crimes, the court sentenced Dang Phuoc Tue and Phan Ngoc An to three years' imprisonment on the conviction of sabotaging the national solidarity policy and two years on the conviction of taking advantage of the rights of liberty and democracy to violate the interests of the state, social organizations, and citizens. Each of these defendants will serve five years in prison for the two convictions combined. The sentences for another four defendants range from 24 months imprisonment to 4 years imprisonment on the same two convictions. After serving their sentences, the defendants will be placed under the control of local authorities for three to five years.

For Le Dinh Nhan and Ly Truong Chau, who were involved in the case, the Ho Chi Minh City public security force decided to arrest them and transfer all their criminal records to the security investigative organs of Quang Ngai and Quang Nam-Da Nang Provinces for further action.

The trial received support from the interested public.

Japanese Interview With Pham Van Dong Reported

BK1508155095 Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Aug.15 — Hereunder is the interview granted by Mr. Pham Van Dong, advisor to the party Central Committee, former prime minister and former chairman of the Council of Ministers, to NHK, Japan Broadcasting Corporation, for its Aug. 15 special programme to mark the 50th anniversary of the termination of the Second World War:

On the experiences of confronting various difficulties and dilemmas throughout the war for independence, Party Advisor Pham Van Dong said:

"I would like to quote the immortal saying of President Ho Chi Minh: 'Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom'. That is the unshakable will-power which has motivated all potential forces of the whole nation and of every Vietnamese to forge the strength that has led to the victory.

"It is widely known that no one has more earnest desire for peace than President Ho Chi Minh and the Vietnamese people. We have done whatever we can in order to come to an acceptable solution. And yet, the aggressive forces still brought wars to our country since they had thought that they could easily win, and history has eloquently testified that they were wrong. This is the past. Let's close the pages of the past and open up new pages to look toward to the future with all the best it will bring along."

Asked to comment on the tragedies in the killing fields and influence the war had on the people, Mr. Dong said:

"The Vietnamese people knew the price it had to pay for the sacred war and acted upon the President Ho Chi Minh's teaching: 'We rather all sacrifice than to lose the country, to be slavers'.

"The Vietnamese people also fully realise the painful consequences caused in all fields by the three decade-long war of resistance, and we are doing our utmost to heal the wounds of the war and to reconstruct our country into 'ten times better-off and more beautiful one'.

Regarding the world situation today, he said:

"The world today is undergoing increasingly complicated and unpredictable (?developments). On the other hand, there have also emerged new opportunities for countries and peoples to get closer with a better mutual understanding and to entertain the relationship of multifaceted cooperation. This requires from human-being a new perception of the world, a perception which is different from that of the past and looking towards peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

"... Regarding the future of the Southeast Asia, as I see it, this region has bright prospects in spite of its differences. What captures my attention most is the state of territorial disputes among countries in the region. This is an extremely complex question which could lead to the potentially dangerous developments. The governments concerned have made declarations requesting a dialogue and peaceful negotiations to be conducted and the world public opinion expresses its support in favour of this wise way. For our part, through practical activities along this direction, we have perseveringly conducted talks with parties concerned including with China in a serious spirit in order to reach an acceptable solution, no matter how much energy and time we have to devote. We will continue to strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations with the People's Republic of China as well as other countries in Southeast Asia for prosperity of the respective countries in the region and contributing to the wellbeing of the world at large."

To a question on his thinking about Japan during these 50 years, Mr. Dong said:

"Over the last 50 years, Japan has gone through an evolution of great importance in every field which has turned Japan into one of the most economically developed countries in the world. On this occasion, I would like to extend the best sentiments and wishes of the people of Vietnam to the people of Japan. We are hopeful that the people of Japan will use their economic wealth, technological advances and their expertise to help the under-developed countries in the region and in the world. With regard to the Vietnamese- Japanese relationship, our two countries have, over recent years, made important commitments to cooperate in various areas. It is hoped that this cooperation and valuable assistance will produce desired results. This is also an opportunity to deepen further the traditional ties and the mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries."

On the end of the Second World War in 1994, Mr. Dong commented:

"Today, when celebrating the end of the Second World War in 1945, one cannot help thinking of the brave struggle of the Soviet Army together with the armies of the allied countries which had led to the victory of a profound and far-reaching importance in international affairs. Here, I want to emphasize the creation of a series of East European socialist countries and of the movements for independence, freedom almost everywhere in the world. This is an unprecedented emergence and rapid growth in the history of the movements for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism with promising prospects. However, there have been adverse changes. It is the fact that the ruling circles have gone out of the track of the theories and the scientific methodologies of Marxism-Leninism that led to the collapse of the former Soviet Union and other East European socialist countries. Since then, it is more easily thought that Marxism-Leninism and socialism have been out-dated. Yet, at this moment, many scholars in social science even in the developed countries have seriously studies Marxism-Leninism and at the same time the socialist forces in many areas are gradually revitalizing with a new thinking and a new energy.

"The end of the Second World War has led me as well as most of the people in the world to cherish an earnest aspiration: never let occur a new world war with weapons of unpredictable massive destruction. Nowadays, peace has become the most pressing demand of the entire mankind and of each people,and together with peace so are friendship cooperation and development."

Vo Van Kiet Issues Order on Timber Processing

BK1508152095 Hanoi VNA in English
1227 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA August 15. — Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has ordered that all joint venture activities in timber cutting and wood processing should be reported directly to him. He has asked the state inspectorate to look into the operations of a number of joint ventures.

The prime minister issued the order after a working session with the state inspectorate last week. The order covers ministries of all sectors, provincial authorities and cities. It also covers other organizations and individuals engaged in joint ventures (formal or informal) with foreign partners involving timber logging and processing for export of any timber (particularly if rare). All the above-mentioned have to make direct reports to the prime minister regarding the main clauses of their contracts, and their implementation. The reports must be submitted to the prime minister and the state inspectorate before August 20.

Dao Duy Tung Comments on Press Responsibilities

952E0090A Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 22 Jun 95 pp 1, 5

[Speech by Dao Duy Tung, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPV Central Committee, on the 70th Anniversary of Vietnam Press Day]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the 70th anniversary of Vietnam Press Day and the 45th anniversary of the founding the Reporters Association, on behalf of the CPV Central Committee and General Secretary Do Muoi, I would like to congratulate the various generations of reporters in the country who have contributed so much to the press and to our country's revolution.

As someone who reads many newspapers, who listens to the radio and watches television daily, and who regularly receives much information and many useful and wonderful ideas, I would like to thank reporters, people who have created values for the Vietnamese press. [passage omitted]

In recent years, in implementing the renovation line put forth at the 6th National Party Congress in 1986, our country's press has made progress in terms of both quantity and quality and with respect to both content and form. It is actively participating in encouraging and discovering new factors, progressive models, and good people and good work in the renovation movement. At the same time, it is giving attention to criticizing negative phenomena, particularly corruption. One of the noteworthy achievements of the press during the past period is the progress that it has made regarding the quality of the information and language. People from all strata have made their voices heard in the press. This has contributed to creating a democratic and open atmosphere in society. Participating in the renovation movement of the country, the press has also renovated itself with respect to content and form, work style, and printing techniques. These advances have affirmed and elevated the socio-political prestige of the press and ranks of reporters.

When thinking about the role and effect of newspapers, radio, and television, I am sure that people say to themselves: Every day, every week, and every month, the newspapers and radio and television provide people in the cities and in the rural areas and people in the plains and in the mountains with much information, many useful ideas, many wonderful emotions, and many cultural values to improve the spirit of people. Reading integrated reports and the letters written by those who listen to the radio, watch television, and read newspapers, those who are interested in the press cannot help feeling happy. Every time I travel to rural and mountainous areas, including remote areas, I see more and more antennas every time I go, and so I'm sure that everyone sees the role of the press.

After more than eight years of renovation and after undergoing many difficulties and facing many challenges, including times of great danger, our people have scored achievements about which everyone who is tied to the renovation movement and the people can be proud.

After many years of crisis, our economy is no longer stagnant and is now growing at a relatively high rate. Inflation has been brought under control, and we are beginning to accumulate money from within the economy.

Although the people's standard of living is still low, it has improved. The passivity prevalent during the state subsidies period has declined greatly. Dynamism and creativity, which are qualities that the laboring people must have in moving our country forward, have been manifested, and the people's confidence in renovation has been increased.

Our people have created a more and more favorable domestic and international environment for building and defending the country. There is political stability, the political system has been renovated greatly, the ownership rights of the people have been manifested, all-people solidarity has been strengthened, the many years of encirclement and isolation have ended, and our country's international relations are expanding.

The important thing is that through much difficult struggle and many dangerous challenges and after much searching, our party and people are now standing on their own feet and clearly affirming our country's path to socialism.

But we still face many difficulties and challenges, including dangers that must not be ignored.

All of our people are concentrating on seizing the opportunity, meeting the challenges, and striving to hit and exceed the targets in the strategy to stabilize and expand the economy by the year 2000, raise our country out of poverty, create the preconditions for rapid development at the beginning of the next century, and hit the target of having a prosperous people, strong country, and just and civilized society.

The press is the voice of the party, state, and social organizations, and it is a forum for the people. The press must reflect even more vigorously the revolutionary movements of the various strata of people who are trying to hit that sacred target. One of the important themes of the press today is to encourage an all-people movement to accelerate production, practice frugality, and promptly discover and manifest good suggestions and good activities in the process of changing the economic management structure and system, industrializing and modernizing the country, building a culture with a national color, and building the Vietnamese people both intellectually and physically and both morally and intellectually.

As we approach the 8th Party Congress, the press should actively participate in reviewing practices and providing a scientific basis for perfecting the lines and policies of the party and the laws of the state, and it should contribute to concretizing and developing our country's path to socialism. Along with praising the good things about the new system, the press must also give attention to criticizing the bad things, corruption, and bureaucratic centralism. It must criticize those who sow doubt and who distort history and the lines and policies of the party and state in an effort to carry out evil plots. The press cannot simply reflect social realities but must guide public opinion in the correct direction regarding things that happen both here and abroad. The effect of an article, whether the purpose is to praise or criticize something, depends above all on selecting the right issue, discussing the real situation, pointing out the reasons, proposing positive solutions, and satisfying the concerns of public opinion.

The 6th Congress of the Vietnam Press Association, which was held recently, vigorously debated and unanimously passed an agreement on professional ethical standards for the Vietnamese press. It stressed that one of the lofty targets of our country's press is to serve building and defending our socialist Vietnamese fatherland. Objectivity, honesty, and a spirit of respecting the truth are all qualities that reporters must possess. Operating at a time when the country is renovating and at a time when the economic mechanisms are undergoing many changes, our country's press is now more lively, the contents are richer and more varied, and the forms used are more attractive. On the other hand, the negative aspects of the market mechanism are having a negative effect on the press and giving rise to vulgar tendencies and commercialization. We must be vigilant and promptly block such tendencies.

Having passed through various revolutionary stages, the party is very interested in the press and has created favorable conditions for reporters to complete their glorious task. This 70th anniversary of Vietnam Press Day is a good opportunity for us to review and manifest the heroic traditions of our country's revolutionary press. This is also an opportunity for the party committee echelons and various-echelon authorities to see their responsibilities to the press even more clearly, strengthen the exchange of information, and expand discussion in order to promptly revise and perfect the policies on information and the material and spiritual compensation measures for reporters and to enable the press organizations and reporters to implement their lines, reach their goals, and contribute even more to building and defending our socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

I hope that all reporters will exploit their capabilities to the fullest in order to produce valuable works to serve the people and country.

Usefulness, Future of Solar Energy Discussed

952E0092 Ho Chi Minh City TUOI TRE in Vietnamese 4 Jul 95 p 4

[Article by Huu Thien: "Development of Solar Energy in Vietnam—Appropriate 'Levers' Are Needed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Solar energy, which can be called a "permanent" energy source, will become more and more important in the future. In Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City is the locality that holds the lead in terms of investing in this field. The municipality has so far developed 89 solar power systems for hospitals, clinics, schools, suburban areas, and even some friendly provinces.*

Solar power for remote areas and far islands

On the top of Ca Pass, 25 kilometers from Tuy Hoa, there is a microwave station. If we want to reach this station, we must travel 4 kilometers of road having a 50-degree grade, with quite a few sections showing serious erosion. It is difficult just to reach the station, but it certainly was more difficult to transport fuel there for the station to run its generator. The latter difficulty came to an end in April 1992 when the station switched to using solar energy to convert into electricity. A battery of solar cells with an output of 1,200Wp (wattpeak) is connected to a Solartelecom control system, which is compatible with the station's receiver and transmitter. This is the first "microwave-solar" station in the national north-south communications line.

That was one of the applications research projects of the Solar Cell Industry Development Laboratory, or Solarlab, of the Ho Chi Minh City Physics Subinstitute. In the last 6 years, beginning in 1989, Solarlab made many long steps toward developing solar power equipment systems serving family activities for many households; community life in rural areas; and various activities related to national security and defense, telecommunications, communications, public health, and so on. Its various products ranged from solar-powered walkie-talkies and telephones for islands, mountainous areas, water transportation police stations, state farms, state forests, and so on to signal lights used on rivers and the sea, surgical lights, and so on powered by solar cells. As the result of the existence of Solarlab surgical lights, the hospitals in Cu Chi and Hoc Mon were able to store energy from solar radiation to use in small surgeries during power outages. Another application used by Solarlab to serve the public health field opened up a new direction for development: To use the cryoluminescent technology to design and manufacture solar-powered refrigerators for storage of pediatric vaccines in far inland areas, remote areas far from any electric power grid, and so on.

And so the strong sunlight in the Hoc Mon jungle areas, Cu Chi far-inland areas, coastal areas, Can Gio Island, and so on was "collected" to be converted into electricity to serve the people's daily activities. For the same goal, the most unique Solarlab product was the Solarstat model — a solar power station serving rural electrification. In September 1990, the first Solarstat station was assembled and installed at Tam Thon Hiep (Can Gio). Twenty-four Solarstat stations have so far been installed in a number of southern provinces, with the assistance provided by FONDEM (the French Energy Foundation for the World). Solarstat, with an average output of 300Wp, can provide households with a means to charge batteries and radio stations, public health stations, post offices, and cultural houses in villages with a source of electricity. This Vietnamese model was considered a good experience in solar energy development by the International Conference on Rural Electrification held in Ivory Coast in November 1993. Since then the Republic of Mali (in Africa) has signed contracts for the assembly and installation of 10 Solarstat stations there.

When will it become an industrial sector?

With the support of Ho Chi Minh City's Science-Technology and Environment Service and FONDEM, a model solar-energy village having a total output of 1,850Wp for the Mekong River delta will be built by Solarlab in Dong Thap. According to Le Hoang To, MA (head of the Solarlab group), it is necessary to speed up the large-scale development of solar power systems having small output (20-50Wp for households), medium output (100-300Wp for 3-5 families), and station-level output (500-2,000Wp for population clusters) so as to electrify the countryside by means of solar energy. In addition to this energy development, we can also achieve it in cities, with solar-powered traffic lights, solar-powered cars, and so on, as we assume that the sources of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and so on) will gradually become depleted and that the prices of solar cells will continue to decrease.

Thus the use of solar energy will be aimed not only at electrifying the countryside as a way to fight hunger and poverty by means of scientific and technical progress but also at contributing to reducing environmental pollution in cities. However, the achievements made by Solarlab in recent years were only possible thanks to the proper investment of the municipality's Science-Technology and Environment Service. It will be difficult to talk about the important role of solar energy, the clean energy of the future, if at the national level the government and the Ministry of Science-Technology and Environment are acting too slowly in advancing appropriate investment projects.

When will Vietnam be able to have its own solar cell-manufacturing industry? In this industry there will be the question of being prepared to have its own manpower. For if we analyze the reasons for the success of the Solarlab group, we will find that it had as many as three research cadres who had been interns in France at the time they were writing their master's degree theses. This means that to prepare the manpower for this field requires not only a policy aimed at encouraging young people to enter the materials science sector related to solar energy but also an "open-minded" policy on training and international communication and cooperation capable of benefiting this body of specialized researchers. If we lack such "levers," the "leader of the flock" of solar energy research and development "birds" like Ho Chi Minh City will become very lonely!

Central Highlands Sets Up Hydroelectric Plant

BK1508150895 Hanoi VNA in English
1207 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA August 15 — The Ry Ninh hydro-electric power plant has been put into operation in the central highlands province of Kon Tum.

The three-turbine plant has a total capacity of 3,540 kw [kilowatts] and a yearly output of 20 million kwh [kilowatts per hour].

Before official operation, all the three turbine groups generated 12 million kwh, helping accelerate construction tempo at the Yaly hydro-electric power plant also in Kon Tum Province. The Yaly plant with a designed capacity of 720 mw is under construction. When operational in 1999, the second largest plant of Vietnam after the one in Hoa Binh northern province will produce 3.6 billion kwh annually.

Vietnam last year achieved a total electric output of over 12 billion kwh and is expected to raise the output to between 26 to 29 billion kwh in the year 2000.

To date 52 out of 53 provinces and cities with 85 percent of districts or 55 percent of communes in the country have been connected to the national power grid.

Wind-Generated Power Project Reported

BK1508152495 Hanoi VNA in English
1227 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Aug.15 — A research project on village-level wind-generated power conducted by Ho Chi Minh City polytechnics was accepted by a government council recently.

The state-sponsored project was implemented in seven islets of the central coastal province of Khanh Hoa. All the fishermen households in Dam Bay islet and half in Hon Mot islet have been provided with electricity produced by wind generators installed under the project. The electricity served for lighting and other daily needs as well as charging ship batteries for offshore fishing.

The project acceptance council set up by the Ministry of Science, technology and environment proposed the state provide more capital for the development of the project, especially for inhabited islands.

Hanoi Steps Up Oil, Gas Development Efforts

BK1408154395 Hanoi VNA in English
1242 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Aug. 14— Vietnam is stepping up every effort to achieve between 30-40 million tonnes of crude oil per year, said Prof. Dr. Ho Si Thoang, general director of the Vietnam Oil and Gas Corporation (VOGC) in an article reviewing the 20-year development of the corporation.

In addition to expanded exploration and exploitation to attain the target, "efforts will be also made to build refineries, with plans to put one into operation by the year 2000 and a second by 2002. They will each have a designed annual capacity of 6-6.5 million tonnes," the VOGC chief said.

Referring to the long-term strategy for oil and gas development up to the year 2010, Ho Si Thoang revealed that the VOGC will promote exploration on both mainland and off-shore territories of Vietnam, including the two major river deltas in the north and south. This would help finalize a master plan on Vietnam's oil and gas development, thus laying groundwork for greater foreign investment in this sector. In addition, Vietnam is scheduled to build factories to process oil and gas products such as lubricants, asphalt and other petro-chemical products. Construction of oil service facilities to better serve oil and gas production, will also be given priority.

"All these things are aimed at building the Vietnam oil and gas industry into a giant industrial group, comprising exploration, tapping storing, processing as well as importing and exporting, making it a prime economic sector of the country," Mr. Thoang added.

Recalling VOGC's growth over the past years, he said that although the corporation was set up in September 1975, oil and gas prospecting was conducted since the early 1960s in the Red River Delta with assistance of the Soviet Union. In the 1970s, Vietnam discovered a gas deposit in Tien Hai district of Thai Binh Province, about 120 km from Hanoi. Since then, millions of cubic metres of gas have been tapped for power production in the province.

After emerging from the war in 1975, Vietnam has intensified oil and gas exploration in cooperation with foreign partners under various product-sharing contracts in the southern continental shelf. In 1981, Vietsovpetro, a joint venture between Vietnam and the former Soviet Union, was set up following an accord signed between the two governments. In 1986, Vietsovpetro began drilling at the Bach Ho off-shore oil field, pumping out Vietnam's first crude tonnage. From the first output of 40,000 tonnes of crude in 1986, Vietnam has produced more than 30 million tonnes of crude over the last ten years, contributing to national socio-economic stability during the most difficult period of the late 1980s.

"A new era of oil development was opened following the promulgation of Vietnam's law on foreign investment in 1987. In the 1988-94 period, Vietnam signed 29 product-sharing contracts with foreign companies with a total investment capital reaching over USD [U.S. dollar] 1.5 billion," the VOGC leader noted, stressing "a more important fact is that mans investors have found oil and gas at the lots reserved for them under the contracts. This spells out the potential abundance of oil deposits in our country."

Among these uncovered oil reserves are the Rong and Dai Hung oil fields which were put into production in late 1994. Last year, more than 157,000 tonnes of crude were pumped at the Dai Hung oil field alone. "Besides the existing oil deposits now under exploitation, more oil fields are expected to become operational in the near future, including the Thanh Long reserve", Mr. Ho Si Thoang added.

Modernization of Post, Telecommunications Reported

BK1508153195 Hanoi VNA in English
1237 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Aug. 15 — Thanks to large investments, the Post and Telecommunication Department has developed rapidly over the past five years.

The telephone density rose to 0.8 percent by the end of May, 1995, or 576,000 telephone units for the whole population, from 0.2 percent in 1991. It is expected that by the end of this year there will be one telephone for every 100 people.

In mid-December 1993, the Vietnam Post and Telecommunications (VNPT) completed the digitalization of the national telephone network in all 53 cities and provinces.

Another landmark was in 1994 when 400 out of the total 495 districts of the country operated their own digital switching boards. By the end of the year, ten southern provinces and cities including Ho Chi Minh City, An Giang, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Dong Thap, Tra Vinh, Minh Hai, Kien Giang, and Soc Trang as well as Hanoi in the north had telephone service available at communes.

In April 1995, the sector officially put into operation the 2,500 km north-south broad microwave band from the northernmost province of Lang Son to the southernmost province of Minh Hai, or linking 27 out of 53 provinces and cities along the length of the country. Those provinces own 80 percent of the total telephones in the country. Moreover, by the installation of 2mb/s, 4mb/s, 34mb/s, 140mb/s, and 622mb/s microwave and optical fibre cables, the inter- provincial transmission networks have been improved substantially.

Vietnam at present has six satellite earth stations of the intersputnic and intelsat systems in the capital of Hanoi, the central province of Quang Nam-Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City, plus another intelsat station under construction in the southern province of Song Be, which is expected to be operational by the end of this year. It operates 2,500 international channels with direct links to 25 countries. Moreover it has telecom relations with more than 200 countries in the world. The operation of a 560mb/s submarine optical fibre cable line linking Vietnam with Thailand and Hong Kong (T-V-H) scheduled for this quarter will provide 7,000 channels for each direction.

Various new telecommunication services have been introduced in Vietnam such as mobile telephones, pagers, information enquiry service, circuit data transmission, and card phones.

Major newspapers are available in the same day of issue in 53 provinces, 450 districts, and 6,000 communes in the country. Besides postal services have been diversified with the availability of Express Mail Service (EMS), money transfer, urgent delivery and others. In 1995, VNPT plans to invest VND 4,000 billion (roughly USD 360 million) in about 6,000 projects for the modernization of the sector.

The goals of the post and telecoms service are to have 3,600 post offices, 3,000 sale agents, and 36,000 telephone boxes,by the end of this century. It also is trying to make major newspapers avaible in all provincial capitals and 90 percent of district capitals on the day issue.

Vietnam is preparing a project to have a communication satelite of its own. The cost of the project is estimated at over USD 200 million. The wide channel network that a satellite provides would allow VNPT to share it with neighbouring countries, and make domestic telecommunications more cost-effective.

Article Views Legislative 'Renovation'

BK1608101795 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese Aug 95 pp 3, 7

[Article by Vu Mao, director of the National Assembly Office: "Renovation in Legislation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the past period, especially since the sixth national party congress, our country's legislative work has been notably strengthened. In a relatively short period of time, our National Assembly passed a new Constitution and many important laws, such as the Law on Foreign Investment, the Law on Corporations, the Law on Land, the Law on Encouragement of Domestic Investment, and so forth. These laws have created an essential legal base for the building of a market economy under state management, thereby helping expand international cooperation and attract more foreign investment while ensuring our socialist orientation, firmly maintaining political stability, and asserting the lofty values of our society. To formulate and adopt such a large volume of legal documents, various agencies concerned — especially the National Assembly — have expended greater efforts and energy to fulfill the task. Various National Assembly sessions have been extended from five to seven days in the past to one month or more at present. The number of National Assembly deputies assigned with specialized tasks has been increased and the material- technical bases to facilitate the National Assembly's work have been enhanced.

Yet the current renovation undertaking and the people's daily lives require more laws and demand more efforts from the legislative sector.

1. First, we need new laws to meet the urgent requirements in daily life and current national reconstruction. Law is an instrument to help regulate social relations.

In the process of implementing the renovation undertaking and building the multisectoral economy, social relations become diversified and complicated, especially in the domains of civilian life, trade, finance, and banking. Currently, we need new laws to regulate a series of new social relations. We must admit that we still do not have such laws. Some of them are being formulated. This has caused numerous difficulties for state management work, while many areas of our social relations have developed spontaneously. According to preliminary statistics, each year our National Assembly can adopt approximately six important draft laws and the National Assembly Standing Committee can pass about 10 draft laws and regulations, but we have more than 30 draft laws to be presented to the National Assembly for approval each year.

With the current pace of our legislative work, we may need several more decades to develop a perfect and uniform legal system. Some developed nations needed 100-200 years to build a perfect legal system. For our nation, however, it is unacceptable to spend such a long time to achieve our legislative goal.

2. Some issues related to the letter and content of our promulgated laws need revision and further discussion. Some people say that a number of our laws are very general and represent only major orientations in our policies and fundamental principles. Indeed, some of our laws do not clearly specify the agencies that are responsible for their implementation. Moreover, many sublaws have been formulated to settle important and complicated issues that, in fact, should be dealt with by the laws. Others say that many provisions of our laws are not clearly stipulated, which may result in different interpretation and application. In addition, the dissemination of laws is not carried out consistently and promptly.

3. Issues related to the consistency and uniformity of our legal system remain. Only a few laws clearly point out the new provisions that replace old ones that are no longer valid. Other laws just conclude with a general clause saying that previous stipulations contrary to the new laws are rescinded. Moreover, the systematization and computing of our laws has been carried out slowly, thus making it difficult for readers to recognize which stipulations are still valid and which are not.

The lack of uniformity can also be seen through the fact that many legal documents and regulations have been promulgated, but cannot be applied because there are no sublaws to concretize them and guide their implementation.

To overcome the above-mentioned drawbacks, along with effectively implementing the Seventh Party Central Committee Eighth Plenum Resolution on building a legal system for the State of the Socialist of Vietnam to regulate social activities, continued efforts must be made to renovate our legislative work a step further. Special attention must be given to the following points:

1. Continued efforts must be made to study and renovate legislative work. Except for the procedures for compiling laws and regulations promulgated by the State Council in 1988, we still do not have a well-established legal document to define the formulation of laws, regulations, and sublaws. Actually, a legislative work program has already been worked out and followed by the relevant agencies. What we need to do now is to sum up the results of legislative work and make necessary amendments or changes to make laws and regulations suitable to real life situations.

Legislative work in our country starts with the formulation of both yearly and long-term legislative work programs. Of late, we have worked out an annual legislative work program to serve as guidelines for the relevant agencies to devote efforts to formulating necessary legal documents. Nonetheless, it is not true that legal documents included in that program have all been compiled and adopted as scheduled. Besides, some documents have already been adopted but there are still different views on the necessity of such a move.

There are situations in which the agencies in charge of drafting laws and regulations believe that theirs are very important documents and must be included in the legislative work program. Therefore, steps must be taken to study and devise an accurate and objective standardization system to set priorities for documents and improve legislative work a step further. To that end, we must answer the following questions:

— What is the true nature of the problems raised by life? It is very important to clearly understand the true nature of current problems. The reason is because outward indications of things may lead to inaccurate conclusions. For examples, the lack of people's positive response to the movement to invest in production and business operations could be caused by complicated administrative procedures and the heavy impact of corruption and red tape, or it could be traced back to the fact that the majority of the people have no skills and necessary marketing, technology, and production organization knowledge..., and not to the lack of adequate preferential policies. Obviously, a correct understanding of problems will lead to appropriate problem-solving methods. Legislative work is somewhat like prescribing medicine. Only correct understanding of the illness will help prescribe the right medicine.

— Is there any other way of dealing more effectively with problems or is it essential to use legal measures to improve the situation? The legal system is but one of the tools to adjust social relations. The other instruments like information, morality, customs and practices... also play an important role in dealing with practical cases. Therefore, it is necessary to make a thorough study of existing legal documents to seek ways to overcome shortcomings. The reason is because if we know how to make use of existing procedures to resolve problems, we will be able to save a lot of time.

— Can we guarantee conditions, especially financial conditions, for organizing the implementation of draft laws and apply them to life? In fact, if the above-mentioned conditions do not exist, legal documents will not be promulgated in time, and worse still, will exist only on paper.

— What about the attitude of the vast majority of the masses toward the proposal to remedy the situation through the use of legal measures? A law will make it effect felt quickly in life if it is supported and implemented on a voluntary basis by broad sections of the population. On the contrary, if the provisions of a law are at variance with their aspirations, the people will take advantage of loopholes to avoid complying with them.

Thus, it is very important to solicit public opinion before making recommendations for amendments to the legal system. This move will help the agency responsible for proposing amendments to clarify the above-mentioned issues before recommending a legal document to be included in the legislative work program. In my opinion, consideration should not be given to a legal proposition if that proposition has not gone through this step.

Preparing documents is a very important link in the chain of the legislative building procedure. Close cooperation has been practiced among different government and National Assembly organizations in the preparation of draft bills and regulations. From the beginning, cooperation between the organizations engaged in legislative compilation and those involved with legislative investigation has helped to improve the quality and procedures for the preparation of legal documents. However, compared to the requirements, the preparation of legal documents, generally speaking, is still low and the quality of many documents is not high enough.

The peculiar characteristic of the preparation of legal documents at present is that a clear definition has not been established for the stage of analyzing and deciding on state policies (or their conception) and for the stage of the direct application of the state policy to legal regulations. In reality, the analyzing of and deciding on state policies must always be done one step ahead. For example, before introducing the limit of land ownership into the land law, two issues must be decided beforehand: first, is it necessary to limit the land ownership? Second, if we have to limit land ownership, then what is its limit to be? It is certain that if these two questions are not answered, the introduction of the limit of land ownership into legal documents will not be firmly substantiated. Therefore, the compilation of legal documents before decisions on state policies have been made is an expensive and wasteful activity. Moreover, our legal specialists are widely dispersed and our legal documents must be rewritten many times over, causing delays in our legal construction work.

In order to revamp the procedure of legislation compilation, in my opinion, we must establish a stage of analyzing and deciding on state policies. In this stage, first of all, policy analysts working in strategic and specialized organizations must study and submit conceptions and policies to strategic organizations for approval. After that, field specialists and legal specialists will set up concrete planning. The government will consider the planning in general terms before deciding to present it to the legislation council. In this process, the Ministry of Justice plays an important role in assisting the government to direct the work. In the long term, after decisions on state policies have been made, the Ministry of Justice must be the organ to oversee the legislation compilation. In doing so, we can avoid the lack of uniformity in the compilation of our legal documents and the dispersion of legal experts, and we can fully employ the specialities of different experts.

Furthermore, to ensure the uniformity of draft bills, it is necessary to set up technical requirements for the compilation of a legal document for all organizations. In some countries, in order to ensure the uniformity of legal documents and to avoid the necessity of defining legal terms in many legal documents, they introduce a special law called the Law on Law Explanation. This is the practice that we need to study.

The next important step of the legislative building procedure is the action after the draft bills have been debated and passed by the National Assembly. This step normally includes the following issues: practical regulations on the publication of the bills and the regulations in government gazettes; who is going to publish the bills and regulations and who is going to collect and preserve the legal documents; what are to be official publications of the legal documents and what are to be merely propaganda and information documents; the translation of legal documents into foreign languages and the circulation of these documents; the legal value of translated legal documents, and so forth. In many countries, they also set up an organization to register and preserve all legal documents. Such an organization will play a very important role in collecting, preserving, and systemizing all legal documents. At the same time, it can help to compile a list of all legal documents in the future.

The aforementioned issues involve features of administrative technology in connection with legislation. These have a very important role in the general legislative construction work. In particular, they can help us clearly refer to and distinguish valid and invalid regulations.

2. Delegation of legislative power should be clearly defined. At present, we rarely use terminology such as delegation of legislative power. However, the fact that our National Assembly Standing Committee passed various regulations authorized by the National Assembly was a form of delegation of legislative power. In our state organization system, the National Assembly is the only organ authorized with the power to write the Constitution and other laws. Nevertheless, to meet our nation's urgent need for more laws, the 1992 Constitution stipulated that the National Assembly can delegate the National Assembly Standing Committee to promulgate laws and regulations on certain issues listed in the legislative agenda. In other words, the National Assembly Standing Committee shall promulgate laws only with the authorization of the National Assembly. In the condition when we are in need of more new laws while the capability of our National Assembly in discussing and adopting various draft laws is limited, the delegation of legislative power is very essential. The Seventh Party Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution clearly pointed out: "While we do not have enough laws, the National Assembly Standing Committee shall continue to promulgate laws and regulations, and the government to issue decrees to promptly meet the requirement for laws to develop the nation."

It is necessary to say that the delegation of legislative power has been applied in many countries. Generally speaking, though legislative agencies worked hard, they could not promptly formulate sufficient laws to meet the requirement. As a result, the delegation of such power to some executive and judicial agencies is necessary. However, the delegation of legislative power must be clearly stipulated in the main law. The authorized agencies have no power to promulgate laws beyond their authority and while promulgating new laws they must refer to the authority given them by the main law. This requirement is very important because it serves as a basis for protecting the legal system and preventing the executive branch from abusing its authority, which happens quite often in capitalist countries.

In our country, according to the 1992 Constitution, the National Assembly Standing Committee can promulgate only those laws and regulations authorized by the National Assembly. This has contributed to firmly protecting our legal system. I think that efforts should also be made to enhance the government's legislative activities in the framework of our nation's legal system.

It is essential to say that a number of important issues should be resolved to promote our legislative renovation. They include the setting up of information centers to serve the legislative branch (the setting up of the laws data center at the National Assembly Office is a good example in this regard), and the training and fostering of our cadres to write and formulate draft laws. These cadres should include specialized researchers and lawyers.

3. Ensuring party leadership is a decisive factor for renovating our legislation. In our political system, the Communist Party of Vietnam plays a very important role in legislative work. The party sets forth orientations, lines, and policies while state agencies institutionalize them into laws. As a result, the party shall first set orientations for the formulation of laws. Reality showed that when the party had not made a decision on strategic issues related to some areas of social life, the formulation of laws governing those areas were very difficult. On the contrary, the formulation of laws and regulations under party orientations and guidance were very quick and effective.

It is necessary to say that renovation in legislation is a major issue that cannot be described in one article. In this article, I could present only some personal ideas in the capacity as a worker of the legislative branch. I earnestly hope that lawyers, social scientists, activists, and the people will contribute more ideas in this regard, thereby contributing to promoting and building our legal system.

Australia

Keating Repeats Stand on French Nuclear Test

BK1608072195 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's prime minister, Mr. Keating, says France should not be surprised by the South Pacific region's strong protest against its plan to resume nuclear testing. Mr. Keating made the comment while speaking at a meeting in Brisbane of South Pacific environment ministers.

Mr. Keating says in recent years the South Pacific Region's relations with France has never been better. However, he says the French nuclear testing decision has changed all that.

[Begin Keating recording] Our history of opposition to the testing of nuclear weapons and the dumping of nuclear waste in this region has been long and completely consistent. It has been expressed in a number of ways over many years in communiques and declarations of succesive meetings of the South Pacific Forum, in the 1985 Treaty of Rarotonga, and in the 1993 South Pacific Regional Environment Protection Convention. There is no doubt this meeting is a further practical expression of our concern about the issue itself. [end recording]

Minister Urges France To Accept Responsibility

BK1608035995 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's environment minister, John Faulkner, is challenging the French Government to accept full responsibility to the effects of its planned nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Senator Faulkner has indicated Australia's approach ahead of a meeting in Brisbane of South Pacific environment minisiters.

[Begin Faulkner recording] I will be issuing a challenge to the French Government this morning, really to declare before the international community that they accept the full and exclusive responsibility, including for any remediation or for compensation that might be necessary for any adverse impacts at all in the past, occurring now, or in the future, from French testing on the environment of the South Pacific or on the health of our peoples. [end recording]

Damage To Mururoa by Nuclear Tests Viewed

BK1608085795 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Further to Prime Minister Keating's comments on the French nuclear test plan, Australia's environment minister, John Faulkner, has released a scientific report, which shows nuclear testing at Mururoa and Fangataufa is extremely irresponsible.

(Lila Hampton) says the report was presented to the South Pacific environment ministers meeting in Brisbane.

[Begin recording] [Hampton] The report was compiled by a group of environment scientists headed by Australian chief scientist Professor Michael Pitman. The report identifies the risk of long-term leakage of longer-lived radioactivity into the ocean. It shows the structure of the atoll has been affected by testing, and there is visible evidence of damage. Senator Faulkner says the scientific group's investigation was hampered by a lack of information. He says French authorities have released very little data and access to Mururoa has been extremely limited. [end recording]

Major Oil, Gas Field Found in Timor Gap

BK1108131095 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 28 Jul 95 p 29

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The rich Bayu-Undan gas and condensate discovery in the Timor Gap Zone of Cooperation could rival some of the best North-West Shelf region fields with possible reserves of several hundred million barrels of liquids and trillions of cubic feet of gas.

The Undan I appraisal well, operated by BHP [Broken Hill Proprietary] Petroleum, yesterday produced a gas flow of 26.14 million cubic feet of gas a day but importantly the gas produced 1,773.6 barrels of condensate a day from a 12-metre interval, low in the 139-metre thick hydrocarbon reservoir.

The sand tested was identified as one of the poorer quality zones, giving the partners confidence that future tests or full- scale production could generate even higher rates.

Undan I, in permit ZOCA [expansion unknown] 91-12 is 10 km [kilometers] from the initial Bayu I discovery made by Phillips Petroleum in permit ZOCA 91-11 but importantly all the main geological features in both wells correlate closely, indicating an unbroken and continuous field over the entire distance.

Geological mapping of the Bayu-Undan feature indicates the structure covers an area up to 30 km long and at least 10 km wide in a roughly rectangular shape although with a large, ill-defined, bulb at the southeast corner.

The production test on Undan revealed a condensate (hydrocarbon liquid) content of 60 barrels for every million cubic feet of gas.

Further testing of higher sections of the hydrocarbon column will be conducted later this week and into next week to provide more information on the ratio of liquids in the gas.

The presence of liquids makes a future development of the massive discovery far more economically attractive with several proposals already on corporate drawing boards.

One option suggests a field development using floating production vessels to strip out the valuable condensate to give early project cashflow and reinjecting the gas for later use.

A second option could involve offshore platforms to produce both gas and liquids to be sent via an underwater pipeline to a site near Darwin.

Such a pipeline could traverse the Santos Ltd-operated Tern and Petrel gas fields to pick up gas for transport to a proposed liquefied natural gas project to be based near Darwin.

But several wells are still to be drilled on the structure before any development decisions can be made.

The ZOCA 91-12 joint venture which includes BHP with 42.42 per cent, Santos 21.4 per cent, Inpex Sahul 21.2 per cent and Petroz with 15 per cent are presently sharing all well data with the Bayu joint venture led by Phillips to fully evaluate the discovery.

That co-operation is likely to result in a unit agreement over future development proposals to create the most economically viable development proposal.

The Undan well is in the same permit as the Elang and Kakatua oil discoveries making the ZOCA 91-11 permit one of the hottest exploration addresses yet uncovered in the Timor Gap region.

Under the Timor Gap Zone of Co-operation, the Area A region is jointly administered by Australian and Indonesian authorities under the terms of the Timor Gap treaty signed between the two countries.

Editorial Chides Treasurer Over Economic Gloom

BK1508125395 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 10 Aug 95 p 16

[Editorial: "Grim Mood Calls For Bold Action"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Treasurer, Mr Willis, yesterday did a good job of listing the reasons why Australians shouldn't be feeling so gloomy about this country's economic situation. He did, however, a much less impressive job of actually dispelling that gloom.

As might have been expected from a man who is respected for his technical mastery of his portfolio, not for his political charisma, the speech Mr Willis delivered was a ponderous affair. More than anything it lacked any significant feel for what the economic figures actually mean for the average Australian.

To be told that Australia has experienced 15 quarters of consecutive growth, and assured that this is the longest period of growth since the national accounts were first compiled, is one thing. To be in the situation of having to meet higher mortgage repayments at a time when, in many cases, home prices appear to be slipping, is another.

Mr Willis might think his growth record is what counts but home buyers facing tougher times are unlikely to be impressed. This is especially so at a time when unemployment remains high, the dollar is weak, wages stagnant and the current account deficit bloated.

In the case of the latter, all of Mr Willis's talk about how this is headed in the right direction, and how national saving is also going the right way, is unlikely to add up to very much. The fact is, not only is the current account deficit too high, it continues to be headline news. An esoteric lecture by Mr Willis won't do anything to neutralise the political fallout from this.

What Mr Willis, not to mention the Prime Minister Mr Keating, needs to do is to stop lecturing Australians about how good things are and instead to start trying to understand what is worrying them. It is only when this step has been taken that the Government will be in a position to address their real concerns.

Almost certainly the core issue is the way in which the growth Australia has experienced hasn't resulted in most people feeling better off. Mr Willis might be able to cite a string of figures which shows this is a mistaken emotion, but that would miss the point. It's how people feel about their own situations which is likely to have the biggest impact on how they vote at the next election, not whether GDP is growing at 4 rather than 3 percent.

Home loan interest rates are part of the problem. Ironically, inflation is another part. The former, while well below the records set five years ago, have jumped several percentage points over the last year. More important, having experienced the huge surge in rates of the late '80s borrowers are fearful of a possible rerun of what was, for many, a frightening time.

At the same time, they are missing out on the compensating psychological reassurance which comes when inflation is high — strongly rising asset prices. Not only do rising property prices cut the relative size of a home buyer's debt, they make them feel wealthier.

The irony for the Federal Government is that its success in combating inflation has delivered its main benefit to retirees on fixed incomes, a disproportionate number of whom are likely to be Coalition supporters. Home buyers, whose voting inclinations are likely to be more evenly split, have instead lost out.

This is especially true if, as has been the case, there have been only modest salary increases or, even worse, there has been the continuing threat of unemployment.

The key point is that to a significant extent, much of this gloom on the part of the electorate is an overreaction to a few key financial facts, in particular, a lift in interest rates, lack-lustre house prices and an unemployment rate which, while it has fallen a lot, still poses a threat.

What is needed in order to combat the worst electoral ramifications of this is some energetic, committed communicating by the Federal Government. Not the petulant abuse that Mr Keating too often delivers, nor the technical, but unengaged, lectures delivered by Mr Willis. Rather, what's need is a good old-fashioned combination of sympathy and passion — sympathy with the fears people have, passion about the government's determination to address them.

At his best Mr Keating, when Treasurer, was able to perform this sort of role. None of his successors have. Mr Dawkins, in particular, was not only an aloof Treasurer, but increasingly one who was bitter about the whole political process. Mr Willis, as noted, is technically competent but, as one wit remarked, "couldn't sell a pineapple on a tropical island". And it is selling the Government to a sceptical electorate which is the crucial task over the next six months.

So crucial that Mr. Keating may have to consider a bold initiative; the replacement of Mr Willis by the current Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Mr Beazley. While he has his share of faults, an inability to get out on the hustings, relate to the electorate and sell the government is not one of them.

Elevating him to the job of Treasurer would be a gamble but, with the election fast approaching, Mr Keating may have to pull a rabbit from the hat.

New Zealand

Ministry Prepares Case Against French Tests

LD1608130095 Wellington Radio New Zealand International in English 0700 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has fleshed out details of the preparations being made for New Zealand's World Court case against France. Jim Bolger says the court has been advised of New Zealand's intention to revive its case against nuclear testing and he believes the court has advised the French. He says a team of about a dozen foreign affairs ministry staff are spending long hours researching the case.

[Begin Bolger recording] This has involved a detailed examination of material covering the 21 years since the court's judgment in 1974. This material includes ministry of foreign affairs and trade files, UN documents, scientific material and further information obtained from overseas posts. [end recording]

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